

ASPINALL'S
ENAMEL
IS USED BY
HER MAJESTY,
THE QUEEN OF SWEDEN,
THE EMPRESS OF GERMANY,
And for the Decorations at Sandringham for
M.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES,
ALSO BY
H.M. GOVERNMENT.
SOLD EVERYWHERE,
Or in Town, Post Box, No. 12, and in Her Bath, No. 12, 12, 12.
ASPINALL'S ENAMEL WORKS,
LONDON.

ONE PENNY. [Registered at the
G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

THIRD EDITION.
"THE PEOPLE" OFFICE.
Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(DAILEY'S TELEGRAM.)

THE CHOLERA.

THREE PHYSICIANS MURDERED.

MADRID, August 27.—The physicians at work in cholera infected districts continue to receive ill-news from the peasants, who are opposed to the precautionary regulations which the physicians insist shall be carried out. A few days ago every doctor was furnished with a military escort, but despite this report of violence done to them are daily received at the Government offices. In Valencia a physician has been killed by a stiletto stab in the back. At Mengate another doctor had his head split in two by a hatchet wielded by a woman; while in another district near Lerdo a third was set upon and killed by an infuriated mob. At Carabanchel, on the outskirts of Madrid, a woman was attacked with cholera to-day.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.)

VIENNA, August 28.—A person who travelled hither from Oldenburg, in Hungary, yesterday, was taken ill, and as he manifested symptoms of cholera he was at once removed to an isolated ward of the Central Hospital in Vienna.

The Daily News correspondent, telegraphing from Madrid, states that the latest cholera intelligence is unfavorable. Suspicious cases have occurred in the districts of Ardox and Canillas, villages near Madrid, and some cases in the capital itself. The epidemic is increasing in the town and among the garrison of Valencia. The Minister of the Interior, Senor Silveira, went on Monday to Toledo, where he visited the cholera hospital and private houses, and saw eighty patients under treatment. Twenty-five cases and eleven deaths occurred during his stay at Toledo.

A Cairo telegram reports seven deaths from cholera at El Tor, and twenty-two fresh cases since the 23rd, but as the date of the despatch from El Tor is not stated, the information is rather vague.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

AFFAIRS IN GUATEMALA.

GARIBOLDI KILLED.

NEW YORK, August 30.—A despatch from San José de Guatimala, received at Mexico, states that the revolutionary General Barrundia took passage on board a United States steamer, but was called upon to surrender by the port officials. The police went to the general's cabin, but he resisted, and in the struggle with the law officers was killed.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

END OF THE CHICAGO STRIKES.

CHICAGO, August 29.—The Stockyard, Lake Shore, Chicago, and Alton strikes are over, and on the last-named railroad the men have already returned to work. The termination of the conflict is due to a conference held this morning between the officials of the companies and Grand Master Sweeney, who was the organiser of the strikes, acting in conjunction with John Hare and John Downey, the Switchmen's Association.

A NEGRO LYNCHED.

LEXINGTON (MISSOURI), August 30.—A brutal murder was committed in the village of Mayview early yesterday morning, by a negro desperado of Lexington, named William Walters. He went to the shop of Captain E. F. Parker, the leading merchant of Mayview, about daybreak, and awakened the proprietor on the plea that he wished to make some purchases. While Captain Parker was stooping to reach an article behind the counter, Walters brained him with a hatchet which he had concealed under his coat. He then picked up the body of his victim and threw it down into the cellar. Having robbed the till, which only contained seven dollars, he made his escape. The body of Captain Parker was discovered a few hours later. The alarm was given, and a search party was organised to hunt for the negro, who had been seen loitering about the vicinity of the murdered man's shop. He was caught in hiding later in the day, and confessed that he had murdered Parker in order to rob the shop. The murderer was given five minutes at the Auditorium Theatre, fresh scenery having been forwarded from New York to replace that destroyed by the fire.

MURDERS THROUGH JEALOUSY.

PARIS, August 30.—Ville d'Avray was yesterday the scene of a deliberate murder, committed from motives of jealousy. A married man named Guérin, who kept a butcher's shop and was also the proprietor of a stable at Auteuil, had formed a connection with a female bookmaker nicknamed Buffalo, who lived at Ville d'Avray. Mme. Guérin, on being informed that her husband was with this woman, went to the place where they were staying and stabbed her husband twice with a knife, killing him on the spot.

(EXCHANGE COMPANY'S TELEGRAM.)

PARIS, August 30.—News has been received here of a tragedy in Algeria. M. Omessa, editor of a newspaper called *Bon*, has murdered his wife and her lover, who was a French officer stationed at Algeria.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

LORD ABERDEEN IN CANADA.

MONTREAL, August 28.—The Earl and

The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

LONDON, SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1890.

MILFORD LANE STRAND.—No. 464

A. GORDON & CO

BREWERS AND BOTTLES

TO HER MAJESTY

AND H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES

CALEDONIAN ROAD, N.

AND

LYNDHURST ROAD, S.E.

ALL BEERS

Supplied in

48, 9, and 15 GALLON CASKS

BOTTLED BEERS from 10, 12, 15, 20,

25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100,

150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 500, 600,

700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300,

1600, 1800, 2000, 2200, 2400, 2600,

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(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)
THE SNAKE'S PASS.
By BRAM STOKER, M.A.

CHAPTER VII.
CONFIDENCES.

I was awakened to a sense that my hour of rising had not yet come by a knocking at my door. I opened it, and on the landing without saw Andy stand, cap in hand.

"Hello, Andy!" I said. "What on earth do you want?"

"For an'! I pardon me, but I'm just on the Master Sutherland; an' as I understand what was goin' for a walk, I made bold to ask you an' if ye'll give me a message to me father?"

"Certainly, Andy! With pleasure."

"Maybe ye'd tell him that I'd like the white mare tak of the grass an' gave some hard 'stain' for a few days, as I'll want her brung into Wistport before long."

"All right, Andy! Is that all?"

"That's all, yer 'an'!" Then he added, with a sly look at me:

"May be ye'll keep yer eye out for a sly bit o' bog as ye go along."

"Get on, Andy, and don't Shut up! you could cornercake." I felt I could afford to chaff with him as we were alone.

He grinned, and went away. But he had hardly gone a few steps when he returned and said, with an air of extreme seriousness:

"As I'm goin' to Knocknaclear, there are some things which a woman cannot misunderstand or fail to understand; and surely my regret and its cause were within the category."

It thrilled through me, with a sweet intoxication, to realise that she was not displeased. Man is predatory even in his affections, and there is some conscious power to him which follows the conviction that the danger of him—which is his intention—is recognised.

However, I thought it best to be prudent, and to rest on success—for a while, at least. I therefore commenced to talk of London, whose wonders were but fresh to myself, and was rewarded by the bright smile that had now become incorporated with my dreams by day and by night.

And so we talked—talked in simple companionship; and the time fled by on golden wings. No word of love was spoken or even hinted at, but with joy and gratitude unspeakable I began to realise that we were in rapport. And more than this, I realised that the beautiful peasant girl had great gifts—a heart of gold, a sweet, pure nature, and a rare intelligence. I gathered that she had had some education, though not an extensive one, and that she had followed up at home such subjects as she had learned in school. But this was all I gathered. I was still as ignorant as ever of her name, and all else beside, as when I had first heard her sweet voice on the hill top.

Perhaps I might have learned more, had there been time, but the limit of my knowledge had been fired. The time had fled so quickly, because so happily, that neither of us had taken account of it; and, suddenly, as a long red ray struck over the hill top from the sun now preparing for his plunge into the western wave, she jumped to her feet with a startled cry:

"The sunset! What am I thinking of? Good night, good night! No, you must not come—it would never do. Good night!" And before I could say a word, she was speeding down the sheltered slope of the mountain.

The revelation from such a dream of happiness made me for the moment ungrateful, and I felt that it was with an angry sneer on my lip that I muttered, as I looked at her retreating form:

"Why are the happy hours so short—whilst misery and anxiety spread out endlessly?"

But as the red light of the sunset smote my face, a better and a holier feeling came to me, and there on the top of the hill I knelt and prayed, with the directness and fervour that are the spiritual gifts of youth, that every blessing might light on her—the divine being—her, my wife. Slowly I went down the mountain after the sun had set, and when I got to the foot, I stood huddled for a long time, looking at the summit which had given me so much happiness.

As I had evidently to while away a considerable time, I determined to make an accurate investigation of the hill of Knocknaclear—much, very much fuller than I had made as yet. As my unknown had descended the hill by the east, and would probably make the ascent—if she descended the hill at all—by the same side; and as it was my object not to alarm her, I determined to commence my investigations to the west side. Accordingly, I descended about half way down the slope, and then commenced my prying into the secrets of Nature under a sense of the just excretion of me and my efforts on the part of the whole of the animate and inanimate occupants of the mountain side.

Hours to me had never seemed of the same inexhaustible proportions as the hours thus spent. At first I was strong with dogged patience; but this in time gave way to an impatient eagerness, that merged into a despairing irritability. More than once I felt an almost irresistible inclination to rush to the top of the hill and shout, or conceived an equally foolish idea to make a call at every house, cottage, and cabin in the neighbourhood. In this latter desire my imagination was somewhat held in check by a sense of the ludicrous; for as I thought of the detail of the doing it, I seemed to see myself when trying to reduce my abstract longing to a concrete effort, meeting only jeers and laughter from both men and women in my seemingly aimless effort to make inquiries regarding a person whose name even I did not know, and for what purpose I could assign no sensible reason.

I verily believe I must have counted the leaves of grass on portions of that mountain. Unfortunately, hunger and thirst did not assail me, for they would have afforded some diversion to my thoughts. I sturdily stuck to my resolution not to ascend to the top until after three o'clock, and I gave myself much fudge for the stern manner in which I adhered to my resolve.

My satisfaction at so bravely adhering to my resolution, in spite of so much mental torment and temptation, may be imagined when, at the expiration of the appointed time, on ascending to the hill top, I saw my beautiful friend sitting on the edge of the plateau and heard her first remark after our mutual salutations:

"I have been here nearly two hours,

and am just going home. I have been wondering and wondering what on earth you were working at all over the hill-side. May I ask, are you a botanist?"

"No."

"Or a geologist?"

"No."

"Or a naturalist?"

"No."

There she stopped; this simple interrogation as to the pursuits of a stranger evidently struck her as unmanly, for she blushed and turned away.

I did not know what to say, but youth has its own wisdom—which is sincerity—and I blurted out:

"It really I was doing nothing; I was only trying to pass the time." There was a query in the glance of the glorious blue-black eyes and in the lifting of the ebon lashes; and I went on, conscious as I proceeded that the ground before me was marked.

"Dangerous!"

"The fact is, I did not want to come up here till after three, and the time seemed precious long, I can tell you."

"Indeed! But you have missed the best part of the view. Between one and two o'clock, when the sun strikes between the islands—Cushen there to the right, and Mishcar—the view is the finest of the whole day."

"Any luck, yer 'an', wid bogs to-day?" I knew I got red as I answered him.

"Oh, I don't know! Yes! a little—not much."

"Share an' I'm glad to hear it, sure! but I might have known the luke iv ye and be ye step. Faix! it's aye known whin a man has been lucky wid bog!" The latter sentence was spoken in a pronounced "said."

Dick laughed, for although he was not in the secret he could see that there was some fun intended. I did not like his laugh, and said hotly:

"I don't understand ye, Andy!"

"Is it understand me ye don't do? Well, surr, if I've said anythin' that I shouldn't, I ax yer pardon. Bog isn't to be lightly shooke iv at all, at all!" Then, after pause, "Poor Miss Norah!"

"What do you mean?" said I.

"Shure, yer 'an', I was only pityin' the poor crathur. Poor thing, but this'll be a crathur blow to herintirely."

"The villain was so manifestly acting a part, and he grinded at me in such a provoking way, that I got quite annoyed."

"Andy, what do you mean? out with it!" I said hotly.

"Norah Joyce!" I gave a low whistle.

"But," he went on, "you are well ahead of me. I have never even exchanged a word with her yet. I have only seen her a couple of times; but the whole world is nothing to me beside her. There! I've nothing to tell. Veni, vidi, vicius sum—I came, I saw, I was conquered."

"Dick," said I. "I turned on the instant. We looked in one another's faces, and the story was all told. We grasped hands warmly."

"We're both in the same boat, old boy," said he.

"Who is it, Dick?"

"Norah Joyce!" I gave a low whistle.

"But," he went on, "you are well ahead of me. I have never even exchanged a word with her yet. I have only seen her a couple of times; but the whole world is nothing to me beside her. There! I've nothing to tell. Veni, vidi, vicius sum—I came, I saw, I was conquered."

"This is infernal impertinence!"

OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

Germany's "Grand Old Man," Field-marshal von Moltke, completes his 90th year on the 26th of October. Unlike the British G.O.M., the great strategists knew when to retire from active service, in deference to the claims of old age. It would have been well for Mr. Gladstone had he similarly admitted to the inevitable, instead of spending his declining years on political agitation of the most sterile sort. Up to the great apostrophe of 1866, he bore a reputation which was held in honour by all Englishmen. That cannot be said now, when he performs the part of Mr. Farnell's puppet.

By the way, I am often asked what is the cause of the delay in bringing the O'Shea v. O'Shea and Parnell case to trial. It has been postponed again and again, by mutual consent, just as if both parties were rather afraid to cross swords. The sooner the trial takes place the better for all concerned. If Captain O'Shea labours under an hallucination about his wife's proceedings, then it is most unfair to her and to his former friend that they should remain so long under suspicion of wrongdoing. On the other hand, if the gallant captain be right in his conception, he is entitled to immediate redress.

It is refreshing to see the resuscitation of energy in the Unionist ranks. From all quarters I hear of manifestations of this new and most welcome spirit. For one thing, there will be no lack of Conservative and Liberal Unionist candidates at the general election, come when it may. That defect is now at an end, while far more attention is being given to organisation than since the last contest. The Separatists make boast, as usual, that they will sweep the board, but that is merely a bit of bounce to keep up their spirits. They know well enough that although the Unionist majority in the House of Commons may possibly be somewhat reduced, the present Government is safe for another term of office.

Do the Gladstonite managers really imagine that they will capture a seat or two in Surrey? They are working indefatigably, I hear, to bring that to pass, but I predict a dismal failure. Perhaps they conceive that the recent territorial purchases of the Colman family in Surrey will redound to their advantage. One member of the great mustard firm acquired Gatton Park from Lord Monson some time back, and now another partner has bought Nork Park from Lord Egmont for a tall figure. It is a charming place, surrounded with magnificent timber and commanding splendid views. But being very bleak in winter, Lord Egmont's delicate health has prevented him from making use of the place for the last three years. There must be much money in mustard-making, it would appear.

The National League being desperately hard up, has organised another begging mission to the United States. I predict that it will result in utter failure unless the missionaries contrive to come over Patrick Ford. He considers, it is said, that Mr. Parnell has played fast and loose with him, at one time putting him on the back and praising him up to the skies, and then swiftly disclaiming any connection with him. The truth is that Mr. Parnell dearly loves the dollars collected by sweet Patrick, but does not care to compromise himself by being as thick as thieves with an apostle of dynamite. And so the Fordian dander is off and the National League pines for the Faustean stream that used to flow into its coffers from New York.

There are some signs of an impending rupture between the Parnellites and the Roman Catholic priesthood in Ireland. Mr. Dillon's attack on Bishop O'Dwyer really strikes at the Pope himself and at ecclesiastical authority in general. Some of the priests are so steeped in Parnellite that they may affect to be blind to the real meaning of this new departure in Home Rule politics. But there will be severe searching of conscience among the majority as to how far they may go with Mr. Dillon without calling down the thunders of the Vatican on their own heads. He calls boycotting, which has been denounced and forbidden by the Pope, "the good old friend of the Irish people," and he urges them to stick to it. Will any priest subscribe to this counsel? We shall soon see.

It gives me great pleasure to be in a position to report that Mr. W. H. Smith's health has recovered in a wonderful way since the session ended. There is now good reason to hope that he will return in a sufficiently robust state to lead the House of Commons during the winter session, and after that is over, he will have another spell of leisure for recuperation.

OLD IZAAK.

The financial result of the recent tournament at Twickenham in connection with the Richmond Piscatorial Society has not been satisfactory, as there only remains about £10 to be divided between the two associations it was intended to benefit, compared with a surplus of £31 11s. 8d. on the previous occasion, and £37 17s. the year before. There can be no doubt the tournament itself was a most conspicuous success, and was well supported by donations, but the unfortunately heavy expenses which had been incurred in carrying it out, and the much smaller result realised in the sale of tickets, negatived the hopes of the committee of handing over to the Thames Angling Preservation Society and the Anglers' Benevolent Society a more substantial contribution.

I quite agree with a correspondent that they very often make enemies for themselves among farmers who, however good-natured, object to see their corn and crops trodden down and devoured through anglers (inadvertently I should hope) leaving gates open. A very little care on the part of those who manipulate the rod and line would tend to make many a friend among the farming classes who, after all, are real good sportsmen at heart and, if properly treated, would be only too glad to help a decent angler in many ways. I trust a perusal of these lines will lead those who, for want of thought have offended in the past, to be more careful in the future.

The Piscatorial Society are to be commended for publishing the paper on "Fish and Fish Life: Past and Present," read by Mr. Crumpton at one of their recent meetings. To those who were present and had the pleasure of hearing the genial and accomplished angler's utterances, the little brochure will form a pleasant souvenir of a delightful address, while it will provide instructive and interesting reading to those who were unable to be present. Mr. Crumpton is such a thorough master of his subject, has such a polished, not to say fascinating manner, and a happy knack of saying the right thing in the right place, that a large demand should greet the appearance of the little work. At any rate, I can confidently recommend a perusal of it to any angler anxious to improve his knowledge of a subject which should be of interest to every lover of the rod. His remarks on fish culture and gross-weight competitions will bear brooding over by every true angler.

London anglers in search of a good fishing

place at a moderate cost might do worse than indulge in a perusal of an article by "Bon-namor," in last week's *Fishing Gazette*, in which that writer sings the praises of Kingston Park lake. Good advice is given to novices, but although one cordially agrees in theory with the following sentence it is not everyone who can be brought to acknowledge its genuineness in practice as want of success is, I should say, just as monotonous. Speaking of non-success the writer says: "I may just mention in passing that this is not the only lake I know well stocked with good fish which requires all the science and skill the very best anglers can display to lure them to destruction, and this is as it should be, for what fisherman would care to go angling if he could catch them out every minute? It would get very monotonous."

The members of the Bermonsey Brothers had a competition at Fulborough last Sunday for their August series of prizes, five in number. The takes, I am informed, were very small, only four out of sixteen getting above the stipulated weight required by rule to take a prize, viz.—D. Dodson, first; R. Smith, second; A. Conn, third; and W. E. Weller, fourth; the fifth prize not being taken. Mr. H. Patman weighed in a splendid take of roach from other waters. Several members of the Grange Angling Society, a week day club, have been out, Mr. J. Haigh and Mr. J. E. Brookes being successful with 3lb. of roach and dace respectively at Richmond. Mr. Wood has also done well, weighing in a goodly show of bream from the Wey, while Mr. T. Sandilands captured 3lb. of bream and roach from Dagenham lake.

The "smoker" to celebrate the opening of the new headquarters of the Central Association promises to be a big affair, and I hear that a grand array of talent will be present. The C.A. visit to the Amicable Waltonians was a decided success, twenty clubs being represented. The Amicable Waltonians are to be congratulated on the excellent entertainment provided for their visitors, and Messrs. Slaughter, T. Meadows, and George certainly deserved the warm reception accorded them. The next visit will be to the Anchor and Hope Angling Society, Canal Bridge, Old Kent-road, the date being not yet fixed. I am pleased to hear this society has forwarded one guinea towards the funds of the T.A.P.S. The next visit on the South London visiting list will be paid to the Clapham Junction Angling Society, on Tuesday evening next. The headquarters are at The Clarence Tavern, Wimstanley-road, two minutes' walk from Clapham Junction Railway Station. Mr. Trowbridge, the secretary, informs me that he expects a good muster. I shall endeavour to be present and expect to see a crowded room, as the Clapham Junction deserves a good visit.

The Thame is showing considerable improvement in the character of sport, especially amongst barbel, bream, roach, and dace, and angling in the tidal waters is beginning to produce most satisfactory results, as there is one take, at least, to record of 20lb. weight of roach and dace, the largest roach weighing 14lb. At Shepperton, George Rosewell has been affording his patrons some capital sport amongst the bream. His best result out of six days' fishing was with Mr. J. Clapp, the treasurer of the Brentford Piscatorial Society, who weighed in at his club-room, the same evening, 63lb. weight of bream, the total weight of the six days being 284lb. Barbel continue to be taken at Kingston, Sunbury, Chertsey, and Staines, but it is remarkable how few have been caught in the neighbourhood of Hampton Court where the fish are in any quantity, but nothing will get them to move. The officials of the T.A.P.S. have been busily engaged in examining the takes of the anglers between Staines and Richmond and have found all satisfactory.

PIPER PAN.

The most important of recent musical events is the production of an entirely new English opera, entitled "Captain Thérèse," at the Prince of Wales' Theatre on Monday last. Its history is interesting and peculiar. My lamented friend, Carl Rosa, was anxious for an entirely new opera by Robert Planquette, the justly popular composer of "Les Cloches de Corneville," "Rip Van Winkle," "Nell Gwynne," and "Paul Jones," but wished for a libretto free from the more or less disguised impurities which abound in French comic operas of recent times.

Correspondence took place, and at length the terms and conditions were settled, and Carl Rosa went to Paris to exchange written contracts. It was settled that a French libretto, free from double entendres, should be written by M. Alexandre Bisson, and should be set to music by Planquette, whose knowledge of English is very limited, and who was thus left free to give full scope to his inspirations. I may remind my readers that only a few days after his arrival at Paris poor Rosa was attacked by illness which speedily terminated in his death.

The French libretto has been adapted to the English stage by Mr. F. C. Burnand, whose English adaptation is witty and amusing. In fitting English words to the lyrics he has been assisted by Mr. Gilbert A'Beckett, and both have done their work well, with certain exceptions, which I feel bound to mention.

Not only my musical readers, but almost every amateur, knows that the first note of every bar is accentuated. MM. Burnand and A'Beckett can hardly be ignorant of this, yet they have disfigured their otherwise acceptable lyrics by wrong accents, placing at the beginning of bars—and therefore strongly accentuating—the second syllables of the words "Sealing," "After," "Ready," "Never," &c. The effect is absurd and ludicrous.

Almost equally offensive is the placing of such words as "of," "to," "the," "and," &c., at the beginning of bars, and I am glad to find these defects condemned in important daily and weekly journals. With MM. Burnand and A'Beckett I have always been on friendly terms, and I respect their abilities as writers of English lyrics, but such defects as those above-mentioned must be passed without reproach, lest inferior writers should shelter themselves from similar reproof by pleading the examples furnished by these two writers.

The plot of the new opera has little dramatic interest, but the incidents are highly amusing, and M. Planquette's music is bright and well-written, the orchestration and the finales to Acts I. and II. being specially excellent. I may refer to the plot so far as to mention that "Captain Thérèse" is the title conferred on the heroine of the opera, Mlle. Thérèse, who in military costume follows her lover to the battle field and performs heroic deeds.

"Captain" Thérèse was well represented by Miss Claire, a young American artist, whose first appearance on the English stage was decidedly successful. Other leading parts were filled by popular artists—Madame Amadi, Miss Phyllis Broughton, MM. Tapley, Coffin, Monhouse, and Ashley; the minor parts were satisfactorily filled. The stage effects, costumes, &c., were attractive, and I can sincerely recommend my readers to pay visits to "Captain Thérèse."

Mr. Freeman Thomas is evidently bent on making his Wednesday classical concerts permanently popular, by providing high-

class music, to which justice is done by the fine orchestra, led by Mr. Carreras and ably conducted by Mr. Crowe. The programme of last Wednesday's concert included Ross's beautiful "Italian Suite," Schubert's still more beautiful "Romandine" overture, Grieg's "Peer Gynt" suite, and selections from Mozart, Meyerbeer, Gounod, and Ambroise Thomas, sung by eminent artists.

I regret to say that my friend, Signor Lago, is obliged to withdraw Verdi's "Simone Boccanegra" from the repertory of his coming season at Covent Garden, owing to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient rehearsal space. Much time will be occupied in the rehearsals of "Gluck's" "Orfeo," and it must be remembered that operas will be performed every night during the six weeks commencing October 15th. There will be a heavy weight on the strong shoulders of Signor Bevilacqua, who will be the sole conductor.

Signor Lago informs me that there is not the slightest foundation for the report—widely circulated, but not in our columns—that he intends to revive Gluck's "Armidis" with the Austrian prima donna, Madame Vojenna, as Armida. He will produce Boito's "Mefistofele," with Madame Albani as Margherita, and "La Gioconda," with an eminent English contralto as La Cieca. Verdi's "Aida" will also be performed, with a strong cast.

Mr. Billington, Clara Novello, Braham, and Sims Reeves have held foremost positions in Italian opera houses, and it seems to me highly creditable to Signor Lago that he has resolved to give encouragement to capable English artists. The English contralto whom he has engaged has a beautiful voice and a commanding presence, and has been engaged as a principal contralto at our provincial festivals. Why should she not succeed as well in opera as the French, German, and Scandinavian singers who are presented to us with Italianised names?

I don't think the Italian organ-grinder who ground for twenty minutes this afternoon in front of our house will repeat his gratuitous concert. We clapped our hands and cried "Bravo!" after every solo, but when he solicited pecuniary rewards we pretended to be ignorant of his wishes and shook our heads. At the end of five minutes thus passed he departed, and, I regret to say, was betrayed into the employment of very indecent language—of course, not suspecting that we understood Italian.

BUCKLAND. JUNIOR.

What a dreary sort of place the desert of Atacama, in Chile, must be! Mr. Arthur Robottom, an ever-obliging correspondent, who has not, however, favoured us for some time, writes that he is at present travelling in that region. He has just completed a ride of 110 miles without seeing bird, animal, reptile, or even insect, except two common flies. Neither was tree, shrub, leaf, nor blade of grass noticed on the whole journey. Water, as may be imagined, is very scarce in parts, and sometimes has to be carried for a distance of thirty miles. Rain, thunder, or lightning are unknown; earthquakes, which are plentiful, seem to be the commonest phenomenon. Mr. Robottom is travelling into the interior, and promises to send us an account of any animal life which he particularly notices there.

The Thame is showing considerable improvement in the character of sport, especially amongst barbel, bream, roach, and dace, and angling in the tidal waters is beginning to produce most satisfactory results, as there is one take, at least, to record of 20lb. weight of roach and dace, the largest roach weighing 14lb. At Shepperton, George Rosewell has been affording his patrons some capital sport amongst the bream. His best result out of six days' fishing was with Mr. J. Clapp, the treasurer of the Brentford Piscatorial Society, who weighed in at his club-room, the same evening, 63lb. weight of bream, the total weight of the six days being 284lb. Barbel continue to be taken at Kingston, Sunbury, Chertsey, and Staines, but it is remarkable how few have been caught in the neighbourhood of Hampton Court where the fish are in any quantity, but nothing will get them to move. The officials of the T.A.P.S. have been busily engaged in examining the takes of the anglers between Staines and Richmond and have found all satisfactory.

The critics are taking very brief and spasmodic holidays this year. At "Captain Thérèse" nearly all the well-known musical censors were present, and "The Deacon" brought to the Shaftesbury nearly all the representation of the "road hog" is, and thus has been the means of creating a better feeling towards cyclists generally. Numbers of letters—indignant, angry and sarcastic—have reached me on this engrossing theme. One correspondent wants to know why the gallant Volunteer was not fined for swearing in court. Because he was a J.P., I suppose; the Great Unpaid seem to be privileged to use bad language as the troops in Flanders did. But to return to the testimonial: I propose that it should take the form of the Committee Service, bound in calf. That would come in useful whenever the colonel's stock of explosives was exhausted, which must occasionally happen.

Some gay young sparks have a disagreeable habit of entering omnibuses with lighted cigars in their hands, which they allow to smoulder until they gradually become extinguished. This practice is not against the spirit of the law, but very much against its letter. A smouldering weed emits a peculiarly acid and offensive smoke, unpleasant to breathe and very clinging to people's clothes. It would be advantageous, therefore, were the managers of the great street traffic companies to decree that no passenger should get inside with a lighted cigar, pipe, or cigarette.

A correspondent addresses us to a fervent protest against the growing effrontry of those whom he calls "the harpies of the streets." When strolling with a friend last Sunday evening he was perpetually persecuted with unseemly endearments, swiftly induced by foul abuse. Nor did the attempted innocence always stop at verbal overtures. Quite half a dozen times the one of one or the other lounger was seized affectionately, but forcibly, as if with the intention of dragging off the captive to some bagnio. It is a shame and a scandal that such doings should be permitted in the British capital. Permitted they undoubtedly have been, ever since this latter contingency, I keep a pair of socks and slippers at my office, so as to have a dry change ready for a temporary shift. The leggings should come up well over the thigh, and be narrow at the foot, lest they should catch in the pedal cranks. They weigh next to nothing; mine, together with the cape, only add about a pound to my ordinary impedimenta. When not in use they can either be strapped to the pillar or handle-bar, or be carried in a hand-bag.

There are few nicer rides than from Banstead to Box Hill. The road is good throughout, the scenery wonderfully varied, and the traffic, except on bank holidays and Saturdays, very sparse. Coming back is even more enjoyable, as you get most of the inclines in your favour. There is a splendid one from Box Hill right away to the top of that awful precipice, Pobble Hill. With a favouring breeze, you can coast for a good two miles without once touching the brake, there being very few steep bits or twists.

A young friend who was with me when I lately took this delightful ride, wanted badly to descend Pobble Hill. I candidly admitted that I funk'd the decivity. Not by reason of its steepness alone, although that gives a cautious rider pause; but after some hundred yards, the road crooks sharply at a right angle, thus bringing you face to face with a solid wall of rock. There may be more dangerous places in England, but I know them not, and don't want to.

Except in remote country parts, one never sees a sociable nowadays. Yet it seems only a short time ago that they were all the rage. Two patent defects drove them out of the market as soon as the tandem appeared. Their enormous breadth prevented their entrance to any ordinary door or gate, while it was almost impossible to make the machine move against a tide of wind. A gentleman with whom I was in the train the other morning gave me a pathetic account of what he and his ailing wife suffered on one occasion in New Zealand. A strong breeze sprang up after they started, and although they had only some twelve or fourteen miles to go, the journey occupied several hours. That was my informant's first and last experience of cycling.

At the Guildhall last Saturday, a reckless carman was fined 20s. and costs for driving at a furious pace through Bishopsgate-street and knocking down a girl with a baby in her arms. He was going so fast that he could not pull up for some forty yards further. I wonder what would have been the punishment of any cyclist found guilty of such conduct; five pence fine at the least, if not imprisonment with hard labour. And the daily paper word have envied the silly season, no doubt, with some excellent homilies on the manslaughtering propensities of cyclists in general.

There is one matter which always strikes me forcibly after wheeling in the provinces during autumn. This is, that country roads are, as a rule, kept in much better order than those in the suburbs of London. Having a couple of spare hours on my hands the other afternoon, I thought I would run down to Richmond and enjoy a quiet ride in the park. So I sped along the bumpy Uxbridge-road—when, oh! when, will the wood paving be renewed!—and turned down Holland villageroad, opposite Royal Crescent. Little did I imagine what was in store for my anatomical arrangements. Before I reached the Hammersmith-road I was fairly dislocated all over, and to this day I feel sure that I must have scattered some of my bones along the horrible thoroughfare.

At one of the local examinations of the Royal College of Music held recently at Loughborough, Miss Mary Anna Shardlow secured a very conspicuous success. This lady is not yet 16 years of age, but she has acquired the diploma of a licentiate of the college. Miss Shardlow has thus earned honours never before conferred on one of her

class music, to which justice is done by the fine orchestra, led by Mr. Carreras and ably conducted by Mr. Crowe. The programme of last Wednesday's concert included Ross's beautiful "Italian Suite," Schubert's still more beautiful "Romandine" overture, Grieg's "Peer Gynt" suite, and selections from Mozart, Meyerbeer, Gounod, and Ambroise Thomas, sung by eminent artists.

The manner in which eels produce their young has always been a very vexed question among naturalists. A correspondent to a provincial paper gives an instance confirming the theory that they bring forth their young alive. A fisherman, a short time ago, brought into market 160lb. weight of live eels, and numbers of them cast forth their young. Some of these were placed under magnifying glasses, and were seen to be of the exact form of the old ones. They were about one and a half to two inches long, of a red or fawn colour, and active in their movements. Of course, they really come from eggs originally, but these eggs are hatched inside the body of the old eel just before the young are produced. Exactly the same thing happens with the slow-worm, the viper, and the common English lizard, while the grass snake and the sand lizard lay eggs.

THE ACTOR.

When Miss Attallie Claire came on to the stage of the Prince of Wales' Theatre on Monday, I confess I was surprised. After the accounts I had heard of the work she had done in America, I expected to see a lady, not necessarily at all "old," but rather more mature than this slight, fragile-looking girl, who had the appearance more of a debutante than of one who has for sometime been playing leading operatic parts in America. Her pretty face and graceful figure at once made a favourable impression, which was deepened by the sweetness of her voice and the excellence of her vocalisation.

What, I fear, was most in the minds of the audience that evening was the extreme length of the performance. Each of the acts was more than an hour long. This defect was promptly remedied before the second representation, but why was the first night audience so victimised? The dress rehearsal must have shown how lengthy the opera was. Of course, nobody likes to be "cut." Authors, composers, or actors—but still the thing has to be done when a piece is redundant, and it is better to do it before the first performance instead of after.

How modest the dramatic authors are getting! Mr. Henry Arthur Jones was present, I believe, during the greater part of the representation of "The Deacon" on Wednesday, and yet, when he was called for at the close, the announcement was made that he had "left the house." Well, "The Deacon" is a very slight piece of work, and Mr. Jones may feel that it is best to reserve the men of the law, but very much against its spirit. A smouldering weed emits a peculiarly acid and offensive smoke, unpleasant to breathe and very clinging to people's clothes. It would be advantageous, therefore, were the managers of the great street traffic companies to decree that no passenger should get inside with a lighted cigar, pipe, or cigarette.

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JACK ALLROUND.

As usual about this time of year, I have received several requests for a recipe for making piccalilli. This favourite pickle may include other vegetables besides those I name, but I consider the selection I give one of the best for a first rate piccalilli. Take a good firm close-grown white cabbage, slice it up finely, and do the same to a good white beetroot, divide a cauliflower into little branches, add a few kidney beans, gherkins, and radish pods; lay all in a sieve and sprinkle over them about three handfuls of common salt, and expose them before the fire, or better still, to the sun, for four or five days. When you think the water is extracted from the vegetables put them in a large stoneware jar or pan, mix them well, adding, as you mix, a liberal amount of good whole mustard seed. Now prepare your pickle according to the quantity you are making, using the following proportions. To every gallon of the best vinegar, add of peeled and sliced garlic three ounces and an ounce and a half of turmeric, boil these, and skim carefully to remove all dross as it rises, then pour the boiling liquor over the dried vegetables, tie a strong piece of brown paper over the jar, place it near the fire and let it remain there for ten or twelve days, or until the vegetables have well soaked in vinegar and assumed a fine yellow colour. Then prepare a second pickle, using three quarts of the best white wine vinegar, white pepper and mace of each an ounce and a half, and nutmeg, cloves, and long of each half an ounce; let these boil for ten minutes, strain off the dross as before, and pour the boiled vinegar over the piccalilli, which is now made, and only requires to be tied down securely with bladder to exclude the air.

"Jennie," who lives in country parts where she tells me she cannot get her gloves cleaned, begs of me to tell her how she can clean them herself. "Dodo," also, is anxious "to try her hands on glove cleaning," because "she is rather poor and must have some." I must warn my two fair friends—each of whom I thank for kind expressions of gratitude for the help I am very pleased to have been able to give them—that I have seen far more failures than successes in amateur glove cleaning. However, I have seen a very great many gloves admirably cleaned by a variety of different methods. Two of these I give. Put on the soiled gloves, and with spirits of turpentine wash them as if you were washing your hands, until you get them quite clean, then hang them to dry in a good current of air. Or with curd soap, and warm water make a strong lather, lay the glove on a clean board or on a dish, dip a piece of flannel in the lather, and with that rub out the dirt, turning the glove so as to cleanse every soiled place, dry in the sun, and you will have them deplorable objects. But do not despair; gradually pull out and stretch the shrivelled-looking leather, and, if dexterously done, you will be astonished with the excellent result.

I am asked by "H. W. L." (Cambridge) to instruct him how to make horhoney bee in small quantities. I do not think you can make a satisfactory brew of less than say three gallons, and double that amount would probably turn out better. For three gallons, take six or seven sprigs of horhoney and three-quarters of an ounce of quassia, and with about a quart of boiling water make a strong infusion, take off the liquor and boil a dozen cayenne pods in it for twenty minutes. Have three-quarters of an ounce of liquorice dissolved in cold water, add that to the prepared liquor, also add three fluid ounces of lime juice, and strain the whole and pour into it three gallons of cold water; add one pound of brown sugar, and colour with burnt sugar, and let it lie for four days. Then warm one quart of the liquor to now milk warmth, mix with that four tablespoonsful of good brewer's yeast, and place it in a warm position until it has arrived at a high state of fermentation, when it should be mixed with the entire bulk of liquor in the tub, all of which, in a few hours, should be in full work. To help the fermentation you should stir it twice for the two next days, and carefully keep it from the cold air for the two following days, but remove the scum as it rises. Then draw off the beer as clear as you can, and pass it into a clean vessel through a filtering bag. Now thoroughly cleanse the tub you have been using all through, and pour the beer back into it. Dissolve about a quarter of a drachm of pure isinglass, stir all well through a cloth over the tub, and cover that with a lid to keep out the air as much as you can. Let it lie for thirty hours, then bottle it, and it will be fit to drink in eight or nine days.

In reply to "J. B." and "Scanty Hair," who both ask for something that will "thicken very thin hair," or "promote the growth of hair," I can highly recommend the following:—Take equal parts of olive oil and spirits of rosemary, add a few drops of oil of nutmeg, and mix well; rub a little in every night, and unless there is some strong disturbing cause you should in a few weeks find a very perceptible increase in the growth of your hair.

THE CITY BETTING RAID. At the Guildhall Police Court, Henry James Fitzgerald, a beerhouse-keeper, of Fulwood's Rents, E.C., appeared before Mr. Alderman Cowan, upon an adjourned summons, charging him with using the Magpie and Stump public-house, Fetter-lane, for the purpose of betting. On the case being called on, Mr. Savill (chief clerk) informed the alderman that when the case was before the Court last week the defendant was fined £10; but upon certain information coming to the knowledge of Mr. Alderman Gray, who was then sitting, it was decided that there should be a further consideration.—Mr. Forrest Fulton (who prosecuted on behalf of the City solicitor) said that he had been instructed that Fitzgerald, who was found upon the premises when the raid was made, was there merely for the purpose of making a bet, and not as the other two defendants (who were fined £20 each) for keeping a book.—Mr. Alderman Cowan said he had consulted with Mr. Alderman Gray, and it was his opinion that the prisoner's life would have been spared, but from what has transpired it appears that the authorities of the Home Office were of opinion that the explosion was due to their spontaneous ignition. It is certain that the magazine contained a number of articles of a class to which suspicion attaches in respect of their liability to spontaneous ignition. Dr. Dupré in his report stated that the blue stars and asterisks contained both a chlorite and Chertier's copper, and the presence of Chertier's copper in any firework mixture was a source of danger. In conclusion, Dr. Dupré deals analytically with the green and white lances, one of which was observed to explode spontaneously ten days after the accident dealt with in the report, and he submits there can be no sort of hesitation in referring the accident of July 6th to the same cause.

Colonel Majendie trusts that firework makers will not be slow to rigidly exclude from their factories those particular elements of risk of which this accident affords a further and striking illustration. It is to be regretted,

he says, that Mr. Pain had not profited so fully as he might have done by the lessons

which similar accidents at his factory were calculated to afford, and had paid less attention to the warnings contained in previous reports.

Charles Pratt, of Blair, Nebraska, met his end at the hands of the lyncheers. He had

murdered a local farmer. The sheriff was

overpowered by an armed mob, and Blair was

taken about a mile from the place and hanged to a tree.

Five queries have been sent to me by

"A. K. R." on a subject I have not hitherto

been required to deal with. Possibly it may

interest other readers, as well as my interlocutor, to learn something about "what ought

to be the yearly cost of feeding a donkey in

London, where there is a vegetable garden

and small lawn?" I have heard it again and

again asserted that a donkey under such

circumstances ought to cost in food no more

than 2s. 6d. to 3s. a week. But that, I should

think, must greatly depend upon the productive powers and extent of the vegetable garden" and "lawn" in question. Those are vague terms, because they may mean either a great deal or a very little food.

Speaking in a general way, a donkey may be kept in food in London from 3s. to 6s. a week. I know of cases where it is done for less than 3s. without either of the helps named above. The second query put is, "What is the best food for a donkey, and how much ought he to have?" He should certainly have a little hay and corn, as among the best of foods, along with the refuse of garden stuff and grass alluded to, especially if he is expected to do hard work. But, as a matter of fact, a donkey will eat and thrive upon almost any vegetable food set before him; he takes willingly what a horse or a pony would reject with scorn.

The third query asks, "What is the best litter and what is the yearly cost of it?" Straw decidedly is best; it varies somewhat in cost.

You may put it down as ranging from one shilling to one shilling and threepence a bundle, and one bundle ought to last for three weeks if carefully managed, and should then be laid by to rot for enriching the garden.

Next comes the important question, "What would be the cost of a good donkey, and where is the best place to get one?" The cost of a donkey, be good or bad, depends upon the season you make the purchase.

Donkeys, like their masters, go in large numbers out of town in the summer, as their owners or those who have hired them for the season on speculation take them to the seaside and to country places frequented by school treats, &c., where they furnish a highly appreciated amount of fun for holiday makers. As the holiday season is not yet over, donkeys are decidedly sold by John Wise, aged 33 years, an iron-worker, who afterwards attempted to commit suicide. Wise and his wife, a woman several years younger than himself, have resided in the village ever since their marriage, seven years ago. Recently, however, it is alleged, Wise had occasion to complain that a son of Mrs. Davies, the woman whom he shot, was paying too much attention to his wife. The latter in turn taunted her husband with being jealous without a cause, and consequently they have not lived so happily as they should have done. A few days ago Mrs. Wise suddenly disappeared from home, taking with her, it is said, several articles belonging to her husband. On the same day young Davies, who is a minor and about 19 years of age, also disappeared, and the husband subsequently took out a warrant for the arrest of one or both of them in respect to the missing articles. He also left home and went to Liverpool in search of the couple, but on Tuesday returned without having been able to trace them. Upon reaching home he went to the house of Mrs. Davies in Meadow-lane, and producing a revolver, said, "This is how I should have served them if I could have caught them." He at once pulled the trigger and shot the woman. He then turned the weapon to his own breast and shot himself. He was removed to a house close by, where he lies in a critical condition. Dr. G. Clindenland was at once called to the scene, and after an examination gave no hopes of recovery in either case. In the man's case the bullet entered the body about half an inch underneath the heart, and it was the doctor's opinion that he must have opened his vest before he fired the shot.

The POLICE COURT.—The coroner inquest on the body of Frank Harrington, the Great Eastern Railway ticket inspector, who was killed at Southend, was resumed at that town.—Dr. Grenfell, who was called to the deceased, was examined, and several jurymen expressed the opinion that the witness should have assisted Dr. Jones, the police surgeon, at the post mortem. Witness said he was not invited.—Corroborative evidence was taken as to the affair, and it was denied by several witnesses that the deceased was in liquor. He did not know whether there had ever been any quarrel between Corfield and his wife about Polly. Corfield and his wife seemed to be fond of each other. He used to take his wife to concerts, &c. In reply to a jurymen, witness said Corfield and he had always been good friends and never had any quarrel.—Edward Haddon, 16, Buxton-street, Higher Ardwick, confirmed Spencer's evidence. He said Corfield spoke of the arsenic as "a kind of white powder called arsenic," and said it had settled all in one place in the pudding. "It had been sprinkled all over the pudding the wife would have been dead and all." Witness added that he had seen Corfield and Polly sitting together in a friendly way in Dyson's kitchen, but never anything wrong going on between them. He never saw any ill-feeling between Corfield and his wife.—By a Jurymen: He had always been on friendly terms with Corfield. The inquest was further adjourned till Wednesday, September 3rd, by which time it was hoped Mr. Estcourt would have made an analysis of the dust found in the prisoner's pockets.

The FRACAS IN A TRAIN.—VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER.

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FUNERAL OF LADY DES VŒUX.

The funeral of the late Lady Cecilia des Vœux took place at St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead, on Thursday. The coffin was conveyed to the church in an open funeral car, and the service was conducted by the Rev. H. G. J. Meara. The coffin was of polished oak with silver mountings, and bore the following inscription:—"Lady Cecilia des Vœux, born 21st November, 1806; died 23rd August, 1890." The mourners included the Marquis of Winchester, Lord and Lady Sandy, Colonel Wilson, Lord Paulet, Lady Stracey, Colonel Paulet, and Mrs. Slade. The grave was a brick one, and was lined with ivy.

FIRE AT PLAISTOW.

About four o'clock on Thursday afternoon a fire broke out at the Whitewell Steam Saw Mills, Whitewell-road, Plaistow, owned by Messrs. Matheson and Co., timber merchants and builders. Originating in the workshops, the fire soon attacked the whole of the manufacturing premises and ignited the dwelling-house, from which, however, many willing hands had removed the furniture. Before the steamers arrived from Canning Town and Stratford, two timber stacks, fifty feet long and twenty feet high, were well alight, and timber was being hauled into the road to prevent a further spread of the flames. There was a plentiful supply of water, and the efforts of the firemen, finding that the mills were doomed, were directed to a row of tenement houses adjoining, from which the excited people had removed their goods. The wind being favourable, there was no fear of the fire spreading at seven o'clock; in fact, it was practically subdued at that hour. The workshops and saw mills and a large zinc shed which were occupied by workmen were totally destroyed, and the back portion of the residence was severely damaged. The damage is estimated at about £2,000. The insurance and cause of the outbreak is at present unknown.

A WOMAN BURNT TO DEATH.

Shortly before midnight on Wednesday a large barn at Bubbing, near Sittingbourne, was struck by lightning and took fire. Henry Jarvis, aged 29, of Chatham, had been occupying a bed there with Anne Taylor, aged 32, a married woman who had parted from her husband. They were both engaged as harvesters. Roused by the flames, they endeavoured to escape, but Jarvis only succeeded. The woman was burnt to a cinder, her charred remains being discovered among the debris. A coroner's jury on Thursday afternoon returned a verdict of death by misadventure.

CHARGE OF POISONING.

At the Marylebone Police Court, William Wilson Copus, aged 23, described as an insurance company's agent, residing at Fulmer-road, Fulham, was charged with administering poison to Harry Poole, aged 2 years and 8 months, his illegitimate son, with intent to murder him. Mr. Froke Palmer defended.

—Sophia Louisa Poole, a single woman, living in Hardington-street, Edgware-road, said the prisoner was the father of her child. She obtained an order against him in regard to the child in the December of 1887, and he was to pay £2 a week. He had paid her regularly—in fact, he had now paid up to September 26th. The prisoner called at her lodgings about half-past nine on Monday night. As she was not at home, he left, and called again at ten o'clock, when she was in. They sat talking until about twelve o'clock, when he said he had brought some stuff for her to take. He had brought the stuff previously, and was annoyed because she would not take it. He said he had it then in his pocket, and asked if she was willing to take it. She consented to do so, and he produced a bottle from his pocket containing eleven doses. He poured four doses into a tumbler, and she drank it. Half an hour later he poured out another four doses, and she also took that. It made her very sleepy, and he advised her to go to bed, and she did so and went to sleep. The baby was by her side when she went to sleep. She woke up and vomited. She had been asleep about three hours. When she awoke, the prisoner was still in the room, sitting by the table. When she was but partly awake, she missed her child from her side, and heard some one say, "Drink it, Harry; have something to drink." She also heard a noise as though the child could not get his breath. That aroused her more fully, and when he gave her the child she could smell that he had given it something. She asked why he had had the child up, and whether he had given the child any of the stuff he had given her. He replied that he had not. She told him she did not believe his word. What she smelt seemed to her.

LIKE LAUDANUM.

After a time the prisoner said he had only given the child some water. She asked why he had not come to bed, and he replied that he was going home, as he had business to attend to. She then said, "No, you won't go home, because I am positive you have given the baby something," and she got out of bed, locked the room door, and took possession of the key. The prisoner then got into bed. The child became restless and smashed his teeth. She again accused prisoner of having given the child something, and he again denied it. She said she should fetch the landlady. He begged she would not, and promised to fetch a doctor. She then missed the three remaining doses of the stuff he had given her the night before, and which she was to have taken that morning, and he said he had poured it away. The prisoner left the house to fetch Dr. Kerr; but the doctor did not come, nor did the prisoner return to the house. Witness took the child to a local doctor, who sent her to St. Mary's Hospital. The bottle left by the prisoner in the room contained some of the stuff, and she handed both to the doctor at the hospital.

—Mr. Newton: Why did you take the stuff the prisoner gave you? Because of my condition. He knew of it.—Mr. E. Owen Kingdon, house-surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital, said he received the child into his care. It was suffering from opium poisoning. He found it of no avail to use the stomach pump, so he gave an emetic. By means of stimulants and artificial means he managed to keep the child alive until it was now out of danger. The bottle brought to him contained what he believed to be laudanum.—Cross-examined by Mr. Palmer: He had taken possession of the bottle, also the contents of the child's stomach, but had not analysed them.—Mr. Newton directed the doctor to make an analysis during the remand.—Detective-sergeant Laker, D Division, arrested the prisoner who said he knew nothing about the accusation contained in the charge. He saw Miss Poole at her lodgings on Monday, and as she was in a bad temper he left her at five minutes to two in the morning.—Mr. Newton remanded the prisoner, and refused bail.

Colonel Cobbe, inspector of constabulary, was on Thursday presented by the Flintshire police with an address thanking him for the invaluable services he had rendered the police in so persistently pressing their claims for superannuation upon the Government.

According to advices from Constantinople, M. Neldoff, the Russian ambassador, has presented to the Porte a note, in which on behalf of the Czar and Russian people, the maintenance of the rights of the Greek Orthodox Church in all the territories of the Ottoman empire is demanded. The declaration seems to be in support of the protest of the Greek Patriarch in the matter of the Bulgarian bishops in Macedonia.

CHARGE AGAINST A SURVEYOR.

Walter Horne, late town surveyor of Worthing, who was summarily dismissed by the local board a short time since, appeared at a special sitting of the police court on Thursday to answer two charges of stealing money belonging to his former employers, and after an investigation occupying over three hours, he was committed for trial to the quarter sessions and admitted to bail. It was shown by the opening statement of the prosecuting solicitor and the evidence that it was the duty of the accused to prepare a weekly wages sheet and to obtain a cheque for the gross amount, and make the necessary disbursements. Evidence was given that on four occasions only a portion of the cartage money was paid, the balance, about £26, being appropriated by the surveyor. The accused reserved his defence.

MATRIMONIAL LETTERS.

In an action of Gronow v. O'Malley, Mr. Boxall mentioned to Mr. Justice Lawrence, vacation judge, that in a motion which had been brought by the publisher of the *Matrimonial News* to restrain the *Star* from publishing letters addressed to the former paper, as threatened in the *Star*, the defendants had consented to a perpetual injunction. He stated that the publication in the *Star* was calculated to injure the *Matrimonial News*, the letters to the editor of which had always been treated as private and confidential. The *Star* would remedy the evil already done, as far as it could, by inserting a paragraph stating that they had been misled, and that they had been induced to publish the matter under a mistake.

CLAIM AGAINST A BUILDING SOCIETY.

Test cases have recently been argued in the Darlington County Court with a view to the classification of claims against the Onward Building Society, in connection with which frauds to the extent of £45,000 came to light in Friday last, when the secretary, Dennis, attempted to commit suicide. In respect of these frauds, Justice Wills, at the Durham Summer Assizes, sentenced Dennis to four months' imprisonment.—Mr. E. R. Turner, the county court judge, gave judgment in the test case on Thursday, a strong effort having been made to get the deposit stockholders or depositors classified as "outside creditors," but his honour decided that they were members of the society. He entered judgment that, after the expenses of the winding-up had been paid, together with the claims of "outside creditors, tradesmen, and solicitors' accounts, &c.," the order in which the funds, as they are realised, shall be applied is to be as follows:—First, the realised or preferential stockholders; and second, deposit stockholders, and the other residue of assets to be divided among the ordinary shareholders.

THE DEAL BOATING DISASTER.

On Thursday afternoon the remains of Mr. Charles Palmer, and Mark Nash, the Deal boatman, who lost their lives in the boat accident in the Downs, Deal, on Monday, were interred at Deal Cemetery. The body of Mr. Palmer was followed from the boatmen's rooms by his friends and relatives, and the cortège was joined en route by the procession bearing the remains of Nash. His coffin was carried by his comrades, whom, including Trott, followed the remains. Crowds lined the route to the cemetery, and many sympathies were shown by the visitors and residents. A relief fund for the widow and orphans of Nash has been started, and already amounts to nearly £200.

SUICIDE OF TWO CHILDREN.

The bodies of two girls, named Andrews and Farinom, aged 10 and 11 years, were taken from the Sankt Canal, at Earlestown, Lancashire, on Tuesday night. Particulars which can be obtained point to suicide on the part of the girl Andrews, the other girl, it is supposed, having been persuaded to the act by Andrews. Both girls resided with their parents at Burton Wood, and attended the school there. When the scholars were released from their duties soon after four o'clock Andrews gave her brother her cloths, and told him she was going to drown herself, at the same time shaking hands with him and bidding him goodbye. The two girls set off in the direction of the canal, which is about two miles away, and the lad went home and told his father what his sister had said. The father of Andrews proceeded to the canal, and on reaching the spot named saw two hats floating on the water. Recognising his child's hat he obtained a rake, and with assistance recovered both bodies. The affair has caused great sensation in the neighbourhood. Andrews has on two occasions attempted to drown herself.

MR. FORWOOD, M.P., ON FREE EDUCATION.

Mr. A. B. Forwood, M.P., Secretary to the Admiralty, addressing a large meeting of his constituents at Maghull, near Liverpool, on Thursday night, said there was very natural anxiety as to the source from which the cost of free education was to be defrayed. He felt confident that no measure would be proposed by the present Government that would in any way injure to the maintenance of the denominational schools of the country. If proof were wanting of the good feeling entertained by her Majesty's Ministers towards the voluntary schools it would be found in the new Education Code, which had been received with so much favour by the country. As a ratepayers' question it would be interesting for them to know that whilst the voluntary schools had been built at the rate of 45 7s. per scholar, the board schools had cost 42 12s.; that whilst the annual expenditure in educating children in the voluntary schools was only 21 1s. 4d. per head, in board schools the cost was 22 4s. 7d. He felt confident that the cost of the scheme of assisted education to be brought in next session, would be defrayed out of imperial taxation, and not at the cost of the localities. The Government had said that, as the State had compelled parents to educate their children up to a certain standard, it was the duty of the State to provide the means for this compulsory portion of the education.

THE SANITARY INSTITUTE.

The important feature in connection with the proceedings of the Sanitary Congress at Brighton on Thursday was a conference of medical officers of health. Dr. Newsholme, medical officer for Brighton, read a paper on the study of hygiene in elementary schools, arguing that if children were taught the rudiments of the science of health, they would not continue to live in houses where light and air could scarcely find entrance, where uncleanness prevailed, and where the foundations of health and age were sapped by unsanitary conditions. A resolution was passed recommending that the study of hygiene should be encouraged in schools, and made obligatory in training colleges.

Lord Hartington has fixed Friday, October 31st, for the date of his speech at Edinburgh. An ironworker, who has been in ill-health, and whose mind is believed to be unhinged, cut his throat at Croydon, near Waverhampton, on Thursday. He handed his friends, and as it was believed that he had drowned himself, the canal was dredged; but later on it was found that he had walked four miles to a hospital, where he was detained.

CHARGE OF INTIMIDATION.

At Belper Petty Sessions on Thursday, twenty-one persons were charged with intimidating a workman employed at the Park Foundry. It was stated that in consequence of the strike which has prevailed at the works for some time past, the non-unionists, who are still working, have been subjected to intimidation. Fines of 2s. 6d. and costs were inflicted. Through the intervention of Mr. Jacoby, M.P., and other gentlemen, there is a prospect of a speedy settlement of the strike.

THE GREAT STRIKE IN AUSTRALIA.

A LEVY ORDERED BY THE LONDON DOCKERS.

The executive of the Dock, Wharf, River-side, and General Labourers' Union, numbering about 500,000 members, of whom 24,000 are in London, have decided to make a levy of one shilling a week upon each member towards the support of the Australian dockers so long as the strike lasts.

THE HIGHLAND LAND LEAGUE.

A demonstration, under the auspices of the Highland Land League, was held at Wick on Thursday. There was a large attendance of delegations and members of branches of the society, and others. Provost Sutherland, of Wick, presided. Resolutions were adopted to the unsatisfactory nature of the present Crofters' Act, the necessity for a redistribution of land in the Highlands, the abolition of the Game Laws, Home Rule for Scotland, England, Ireland, and Wales; the extension of the franchise to all male adults not subject to legal incapacity, the abolition of the House of Lords, and in favour of shorter Parliaments. A resolution in favour of the disestablishment of the Church of Scotland was negatived by a large majority. Dr. Clark, M.P., Dr. Macdonald, M.P., Mr. A. C. Morton, M.P., and Mr. Angus Sutherland, M.P., took part in the proceedings.

THE POTATO BLIGHT IN IRELAND.

A DARK PROSPECT.

The Irish Land Commission has just issued a report upon the condition and prospects of the crops in Ireland up to August 13th. This report is made up from returns which the Land Commissioners have received from the assistant commissioners and valuers in their employment. It concerns itself, of course, with all the crops; and the oat crop, the most important of all the cereal crops of Ireland, is generally reported to be good. The prospect is that with favourable weather it will at least be quite up to the average. But as regards the potato crop the reports are very different indeed—very disheartening and distressing. The commissioners announce that the recent inclement weather "has resulted in the appearance of the potato blight almost universally over Ireland." The disease appeared first in the poorer lands along the coasts, but during the last week in July the potato crop all over Ireland, with few exceptions, was struck by disease. The report contains minute statistical accounts of the extent and character of the blight in all the different parts of the country, and very dismal reading these accounts almost invariably are. In the column of the return which tells whether in each district the crop is expected to be above or below the average, we sometimes read a succession of entries with the grim refrain: Much below, very much below, very seriously below—not more than half a crop, and so on. There are indeed, districts which have suffered less severely, and some which, as yet, have hardly suffered at all; but almost everywhere we are sadly reminded that as to the final results "much will depend on the weather." In very few cases is there anything of real encouragement given by the reports. The general impression produced by a study of this very important document is that the prospects of Ireland are darker than had been expected.

THE BURGLARY SEASON.

George Belcher, 19, stoker of Rosemary-street, Hoxton, and Edward Northcote, porter of Wilmott Gardens, Kingsland-road, were charged on remand with having been concerned together in burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Mr. Gilbert Bettmann, professor of music, Junction-road, Upper Holloway, and stealing therefrom property valued at £15.—At one o'clock on the morning of the 21st P.C. Hardy, 22, was on duty, when he saw the prisoners Belcher carrying a bundle. He was taken to the station, and the bundle was found to contain a number of dress ornaments, skirts, and underclothing, and a receipt bearing the prosecutor's name and address. The prisoner was detained, and Inspector Sullivan went, in company with D.S. Couchman, to the house, which they found had been entered by the forcing of a back bed-room window. Falling to make any one hear, the officers got a ladder and entered the room, which was in confusion. They then found the servant and Mr. Bettmann's mother asleep in an upper room, and learned that the prosecutor and his family were away at Lowestoft. From a statement Belcher subsequently made, Northcote was arrested with other property, which Mr. Bettmann now identified and valued at £15, in his possession.—The prisoners did not deny their guilt. They were committed to the Old Bailey for trial.

COMPLAINT AGAINST POLICE CONSTABLES.

At Wandsworth Police Court on Thursday, Orlando Mead, a labourer, living in Duffield-street, Battersea, was charged with being drunk and disorderly; and further with assaulting P.C. Cordwell, 47 V. W. in the execution of his duty.—The officer stated that he arrested the prisoner for being disorderly in Bantury-street, when he struck him a blow in the mouth threatening to knock out his teeth.—The prisoner alleged that the constable entered the Duke of Cambridge public-house, with another officer, and was served with drink. He remarked that it was lucky to be a policeman, to have drink when he wanted it. The constable replied that he would give him drink when outside, and on leaving he was seized hold of and dragged to the station, where he was charged.—P.C. 402 V gave corroborative evidence, and added that he saw the officer struggling with prisoners on the ground.—Mr. Plowden: Who was uppermost?—The Constable: They were both struggling on the ground.—Mr. Plowden repeated the question, and the officer answered in the same manner.—Mr. Plowden, addressing the witness in severe terms, said he understood that ten minutes ago. He told him that if he did not know who was uppermost to say so.—The constable, after some hesitation, said the officer was uppermost.—Mr. Plowden: Why did you not say that before?—The constable made no reply, and Mr. Plowden desired him to stand down, at the same time observing that he had given his evidence in a most unsatisfactory manner.—For the defence Horace Castle was called, and he stated that he heard the prisoner threaten to go to the police station and report P.C. 47 V, who had previously slipped into him. He (the constable) replied that he would take him there himself. Both officers then seized hold of him and took him to the station.—The prisoner repeated his allegation, and denied being the worse for drink.—Inspector Attwool, who took the charge, mentioned that the witness Castle attended the station and made a complaint.—Dr. Kempster, the divisional surgeon, examined the prisoner to be the worse for drink.—Mr. Plowden said he was not at all satisfied with the evidence, and the witness Horace Castle having asked for a remand for the attendance of another witness, the magistrate acceded to the request.

MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS AND THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

The annual activities of the Dover Division of the Primrose League were held yesterday at Lady Guildford's park, Walmer-share. Mr. Akers-Douglas, M.P., political secretary to the Treasury, warned the Conservative party against over-confidence, and spoke upon members of the Primrose League to prepare for the general election, whenever it might come. The work he had come from was of an unusually arduous character, but he was not one of those who maintained that it had been a wasted session. He was quite certain that when the statistical book of the session was in their hands it would compare most favourably with that of other Parliaments. The Government of Lord Salisbury, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Goschen one that had won the respect and affection of the country, and he had no hesitation in saying that when the time came they would do all that they could. A half-sovereign had been given to the prisoner. The directors said they were perfectly ready to defend. He spoke hopefully of the prospects of the Aquarium. The report was adopted.

THE ROYAL AQUARIUM.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Royal Aquarium Summer and Winter Garden Company was held at the Aquarium on Thursday. Captain Molesworth, the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that they had been attacked by people who did not come to the place, but heard of it from others. Their management was stricter at the Aquarium than at any other place in London, and their entertainments were free from vulgarity. There had been an attempt made by some persons to bet in the place. They had in consequence been turned out, and had threatened an action, which the directors said they were perfectly ready to defend. He spoke hopefully of the prospects of the Aquarium. The report was adopted.

THE ATLANTIC LINER OF THE FUTURE.

A sanguine American contemporary has been indulging its readers with a description of the coming steamer. She will, for one thing, be over a quarter of a mile in length and will do the voyage from Sandy Hook to Liverpool in thirty-six hours, all told. Electricity is to be the motive power, and the passenger's first-class ticket will include the price of an opera stall, a concert ticket, and a seat at church; the opera-house concert-hall, and church being all on board. A covering for horse exercise and trotting matches is also to be provided, and baseball and tennis courts will be among the attractions. For the use of business men there will be a stock exchange on board, in direct electric communication with Wall-street and Capel-court, whilst the contents of the leading newspapers of all countries will be reproduced on board daily by electric reflection.

BABY FARMING AT THE EAST-END.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE PEOPLE."

Sir.—In the report of the coroner's inquiry respecting the death of Alfred William Goodwin, aged 10 months, which appeared under the above heading in your columns of the 24th inst., the mother is represented to have tried to get her child into Dr. Barnardo's Home, but she would not let him in as he was ill. Will you permit me to set forth the real facts of the case? The mother made application hereon January 1st last for the admission of her illegitimate child. Some days afterwards, when our officer called upon her, in the course of his investigation of the case, she informed him that she wished to withdraw her application, and on this ground refused to supply even the name and address of the person in whose care the child then was. This interview took place in the presence of the mother's employer, who blamed her for the course she was adopting. Under these circumstances we were absolutely unable to proceed further, and the application necessarily fell through, but not for the reason given by the woman before the coroner.—Yours, &c., JOHN ODLING, Secretary.

On Dr. Barnardo's Homes, 18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, E. August 22nd.

The Empress Frederick of Germany will arrive in Aberdeen on Wednesday next, to the effect that in future the German empire must be excluded from the scene of their operations; further, that any depots formed will be summarily suppressed and legal proceedings instituted against the leaders or officers. A hint has also been added to the effect that the British Government may possibly be asked to move in this matter.

Mr. Bushell Maple, M.P., presided at a business meeting of the Dulwich Constitutional Club, East Dulwich Grove, when it was announced that a series of political gatherings would be held at the club during the ensuing autumn.

Several summonses taken out by the Excise authorities against publicans for diluting beer were heard at Worship-street Police Court on Thursday.—In the case of George Leeder, of the Spital Arms, Spital-street, Stepney, the defendant was said to have been previously convicted of adulterating beer, but he denied the statement, and the Excise officer said he believed that the defendant had submitted to a "compromise fine." Defendant now made a statement that he was under the impression that it was not a "recorded conviction," as he had paid the money (£10) to the revenue officer, having consented to pay that sum rather than come before the court.—Mr. Bushell imposed a fine of £12 10s.—Alfred Witherick, of the Hare, Brick-lane, Bethnal Green, who pleaded guilty to adulteration to the extent of five and a half gallons to the barrel of thirty-six, was fined 45.—Samuel J. Muncey, of the Bacchus, Hoxton-street, Hoxton, was called to answer a similar charge, but the case had been arranged and the summons withdrawn.—William Higgins, of the Woolpack, Old Ford-road, pleaded guilty to diluting beer and adding sugar.—He was ordered to pay a fine of £10.

Mr.

LAST WEEK'S POLICE.

Mansion House.

SHE WOULD KISS THE MAGISTRATE.—A woman named Mary Fowkes was brought before Alderman Sir A. Lusk, charged with disorderly conduct and creating an obstruction in Gracechurch-street. The prisoner, who had evidently at one time been a fine handsome woman, presented an extraordinary appearance when placed in the dock. Her dress consisted of tawdry finery, the skirt being looped up with a piece of string attached to a leather belt round her waist, and a man's collar formed part of the loop to the skirt of the dress. She had on her head a large turban ornamented with a number of slips of paper of different colours to resemble flowers.—A police-constable stated that about ten o'clock on the previous night he was on duty in Gracechurch-street, and saw the prisoner, who was surrounded by a large crowd. She had a tin whistle, on which she played different tunes, and the crowd appeared to be very much amused at her proceedings. Witness asked the prisoner to go away, but she refused, and insisted upon her right to play on the whistle as long as she pleased, and he was at length obliged to take her into custody.—Sir Andrew (to the prisoner): Well, Mary, what have you got to say to all this about what you have been doing?—Prisoner: I am a musician and I was only practising. (Laughter.)—Sir Andrew: But you must not play your whistle in a public thoroughfare and cause a crowd to assemble. Where do you come from?—Prisoner: I come from Nottingham, and have been in the lace trade. I have made twenty dresses for the Queen.—Sir Andrew: Well, I think the best thing to do for you is to send you to a place where you will be quiet for a few days, and then you can come and see me again.—Prisoner: Oh, I know what that means; you are going to send me to some asylum. I know what an asylum is.—Sir Andrew: No, I am only going to send you to a place where you will be kept quiet for a short time, and then we will see what is best to be done.—Prisoner: Very well, I suppose I must go, but I am very hungry.—Sir Andrew: I said she should have some refreshment, and he directed the gaoler to give her some food at once.—The prisoner, when she heard this, cried out, "You are a good old fellow, I will kiss you when I come out." (Loud laughter.)

Bow-street.

THE SLUMBERING SOLDIER.—According to the usual custom, those persons who were about to make applications were admitted to the court. Among them was a member of the 1st Volunteer Lancashire Artillery, who, it appeared, had come to see a comrade out of trouble, who was charged with being drunk and incapable. Upon entering the court, it soon became apparent that the friend, too, had been imbibing freely, and, much to the amusement of the officials of the court, he walked as well as he could to the dock, and with a grave expression on his face, entered it, sat down, and went fast asleep. In a few minutes he awoke, looked round in a dazed way, arose, and, after standing at attention for a second marched with all the dignity he could command to a seat a short distance from the dock. Having seated himself he immediately fell asleep again, and very shortly his head fell on to the shoulder of a young woman who had come to make an application. She did not resent this, but laughed. The wary eye of Mr. Murgatroyd, the chief usher, however, soon detected the man's condition, and touching him on the shoulder, he said, "Here, come here, with me." The soldier immediately stood up at attention, and followed Mr. Murgatroyd out of court "to have a little fresh air," as the chief usher afterwards observed. However, when the general public were admitted, the soldier reeled in again, and staggered to a seat. "Take your hat off," said Sergeant White, the gaoler. "Shan't," he replied, "I'm a soldier, and I'm in uniform." The persuasive powers of Mr. Murgatroyd were once more called into requisition, and having removed his cap the man again sank into a deep slumber, and beyond an occasional snore he was quiet, but it became necessary eventually to remove him.

A REMARKABLE BOY.—About a month ago a respectably-dressed man attended at the court and made an application for advice with reference to the conduct of a boy, aged 9, whom he had adopted. He then stated that the boy was in the habit of absenting himself from school, and in consequence he (applicant) had undertaken to teach him at home. In this, however, he was thwarted by the lad's conduct. He was in the habit of leaving home for days together, and returned in a very weak state of health. After he had been fed on stewed sops, soups, and other delicacies that applicant could afford, and had thoroughly recovered, he would again abscond, and return in a weakly condition. It was also complained that he had stolen a valuable book, but applicant did not wish to prosecute him. He again attended before Mr. Lushington and re-stated the above facts, and now added that the boy was "going on worse than ever" since the last application, when he most faithfully promised the magistrate that he would be a good boy. He had been in Hyde Park and had stolen two pairs of boots from some other boys. One of the boys was in attendance at the court with applicant, who was also accompanied by his lady.—Mr. Lushington: If I recollect rightly, it's a boy you adopted. Applicant: I wish to adopt him, but it is really impossible for me to do so. He is running my work, he is such a bad boy. Mr. Lushington suggested that the boy should be prosecuted for the theft of the boots, and a magistrate would then deal with him.—Applicant: But the people won't prosecute, as they say it would be a cruel thing to prosecute such a young boy.—Mr. Lushington: How old is the boy?—Applicant: Nine.—Mr. Lushington: He has any parents?—Applicant: No, I don't think that his mother is living. I have seen nothing of the boy's parents.—Mr. Lushington: It would be the best thing if these persons would charge him and bring him before a magistrate.—Applicant: He is so violent now. It is not safe for me or my landlady to go home.—Mr. Lushington: What from a boy 9 years of age?—Applicant: Yes, it is utterly unsafe. He tried to push me downstairs this morning as I came out. He threw himself into a fearful rage when he knew we were coming here.—Mr. Lushington again suggested that the best course would be to charge the boy with theft.—Applicant appeared to be quite puzzled, as the persons who had been robbed would not charge the boy.—Eventually he decided to bring the case under the notice of the School Board officer.

Marlborough-street.

THE CHARGE OF ROBBING AN AMERICAN.—Maurice Hogan, a bricklayer, of Colville-place, Tottenham Court-road, and Lilian Hogan, his daughter, were charged, on remand, with having stolen a gold watch and chain worth £20 from Captain James Roberts, an American gentleman staying at the Inns of Court Hotel.—The evidence was to the effect that Captain Roberts, after drinking with Hogan and his daughter in a public-house for about three hours, accompanied them to their home. A friend of Mr. Tamlin, a Senator of the United States, followed them, and tried to persuade Captain Roberts not to remain in the place; but that gentleman, being intox-

cated, refused to come away, and a struggle took place in the passage, during which Captain Roberts either fell or was thrown down. Eventually Mr. Tamlin dragged Captain Roberts out by force. It was then found that his waistcoat was unbuttoned, and that the contents of his pockets were scattered on the ground; while, a few minutes later, when they were driving back to their hotel he discovered that his watch and chain were gone. The prosecutor had left London, and could not be traced. He and his friend were over here on business connected with mining, and had been travelling about the country.—Mr. Newton said that under those circumstances he could not detain the prisoners, and ordered them to be discharged.

Marylebone.

ROBBERY FROM A FREE LIBRARY.—Edward Charles Henry, 35, of 85, Earl-street, Marylebone, described as a librarian, was charged with stealing from the Marylebone Free Library, Lissom Grove, £3 in money, an overcoat, and other property, of the value of £5. Thomas Johnson, assistant librarian, said prisoner was formerly employed at the library as assistant. On the 14th inst., witness left the library about ten o'clock, after seeing the doors properly secured. He returned at about nine o'clock on the following morning, and found that the place had been broken into. A desk was forced open and £3 stolen. A small contribution box had also been forced open. A coat belonging to Mr. Doubleday, the librarian, had also been stolen.—Charles William Asday, pawnbroker's assistant, proved that prisoner pledged the coat at a pawnbroker's shop in Lissom Grove, on the 13th, for £8.—Detective Webb proved apprehending the prisoner, who admitted the offence, and expressed his sorrow for what had occurred.—The prisoner was remanded.

Clerkenwell.

A LAD CHARGED WITH STABBING.—James, aged 15, a van boy, of Grosvenor-street, Islington, was charged with feloniously wounding H. F. Sands, a stable boy, by stabbing him in the leg with a knife, at Bett's Yard, York-road, St. Luke's. Both lad and in the same employment.—On Thursday morning they were in a stable at Bett's Yard, when Taylor suggested that complainant had stolen some brickdust that had been missed by their employer. Sands repudiated the suggestion, whereupon defendant called him a nickname. Complainant struck Taylor three times on the face with his open hand, and defendant replied by beating Sands about the legs with a broomstick and piece of iron. Complainant seized the defendant by the throat, when the latter took penknife from his pocket, opened it, and stabbed Sands in the leg. Complainant proceeded to the hospital, and there had the wound, which is not of a serious nature, dressed. The following day he gave information to the police, and, in the evening, Taylor was apprehended at his lodgings by P. S. 19 G. Defendant, when told the charge, said, "Yes, I did it, because he seized me by the throat and hurt my abcess." The affray was witnessed by another stable boy, who corroborated the statement of Sands.—Mr. Bros committed Taylor for trial.

Thames.

OF THE DEEPEST DYE.—Matthew Brice, 24, was charged with violently assaulting his mother, Bridget Brice, of Mayfields Buildings, Cable-street, St. George's. A gentleman from the Institute for the Protection of Women watched the case.—Prosecutrix, who gave evidence with great reluctance, said that her son struck her with his fist, tattered a piece of crapes round her neck, and threatened to hang her. She cried, and said, "Have mercy on your blind mother!"—Mr. Sayers (the chief clerk): Are you blind?—The prosecutrix: Yes, O'Dell, the usher, said the prosecutrix had severe bruise on the neck.—Mr. M. McCrory, divisional surgeon of police, found a severe bruise on her left jaw, and a bruise extended to her breast bone. One of her teeth was loose, and considerable force must have been used. On the right side of the neck was a red mark, apparently by the drawing of something tight round her throat. The prosecutrix appeared to be suffering from the shock. When charged, the prisoner remarked that the date was wrong.—P.C. 115 H said that in August, 1888, the prisoner was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.—Mr. Dickinson said the prisoner was a coward of the deepest dye. He had assaulted, in a brutal manner, the very person he ought to have protected since his father's death.—He sentenced him to six months' hard labour.

Worship-street.

THE SUPPORT OF A CHILD.—A man named Taylor, having the appearance of a working carpenter, was summoned to show cause why he should not contribute towards the support of the illegitimate child of a woman named Hines. Mr. Bedford (Abbott and Co.) appeared for the defence, and on the complainant stating that the child was born in January, 1889, took an objection, that the summons was out of time, as under Sec. 3 of the Act proceedings must be initiated within twelve months after the birth or within twelve months after any payment of money for the maintenance of the child.—The complainant was questioned by Mr. Bushby, and said that the defendant had paid her £50 two months before the child was born, and no more until July last, when he gave her a sovereign.—Mr. Bedford said that what was done was done before the birth of the child, and any payment in July was long after the expiration of twelve months.—Mr. Bushby agreed, and dismissed the summons.—The complainant threatened the defendant as she left the court.

TURNING THE TABLES.

THE further hearing of the summonses arising out of a strike of cabinet-makers on the premises of Joseph Wynneberg, manufacturer, of Scrutton-street, Curtain-road, was fixed for yesterday afternoon, but the four workmen, Graf, Mowian, Harris, and Love, who had summoned the employer, were not in attendance.—Mr. A. J. Benjamin, on behalf of Wynneberg, read a letter from the solicitors of the Cabinet-makers' Union, announcing that the summonses would not be proceeded with, and added that he had written a letter stating that the master would not abandon his counter-claim against the men. As the workmen on being called did not answer, the summonses were struck out.—Mr. Wynneberg then proved his case against the workmen. Graf had contracted to make two cabinets for 26 10s., had received 14s. more than the work done was valued at, and Mr. Wynneberg had lost £2 10s. profit by reason of not being able to deliver the cabinets in time.—Mr. Bushby allowed the full amount of the claim for damages, ordered repayment of the 14s. overdrawn, and allowed the maximum costs under the Act, 12s., a total of £3 16s., against Graf. Against Mowian an order was made to pay 24s. and 12s. costs; against Harris an order for 4s. 8s., and 17s. costs; and against Love an order to pay 4s. 16s. 6d., and 17s. costs.

West London.

STUPID CHARGE AGAINST CARMEN.—Charles Drue and George Hare, Carmen, were charged with being concerned in stealing a purse, containing £2s. 10d., from Amelia Charles, who resided at Tavistock-crescent, Westbourne Park.—Prosecutrix said her husband was a picture-dealer and surveyor.

On Friday night the prisoners removed some furniture which she had sold to her lodger, Mr. Collinson. She walked with Mrs. Collinson to the house, but she was not acquainted with the name of the road. She consented to pay for the removal, trusting her lodger until that day, when he received his wages. The prisoner Drue asked for 9s., but she did not see her way to pay that amount, and said he had better wait until Mr. Collinson received his money. The prisoner held her arm while Hare took the medical officer, who ought to have sent him to the infirmary.—Mr. Shell sentenced him to one month's hard labour, and Donovan, whose excuse was that the rope was too hard for his tender fingers, to fourteen days.

Highgate.

WITHOUT AN ADDRESS.—Herbert James Roby, 33, described as an artist, was charged with being on enclosed premises at Orchard Lodge, Nether-street, Finchley, supposed for the purpose of committing a felony, and further with breaking a window of the value of 7s. 6d.—When asked his address he said he had none, and upon being asked when he last had one, said, "When I was a child." (Laughter.)—Mrs. Roberts, the wife of the clerk to the Finchley Local Board, deposed that on Friday night about a quarter to eleven she went to bed, and at eleven she was awakened by the barking of the dog. On going down she saw the dog at the dining-room door, and heard a smash in the room. She went upstairs again to dress, looked out of the bed-room window, and there saw the prisoner lying under the window. She came down again and asked the prisoner what he was recovering from the effects of drink. He also said he had been lying on the floor of an empty room all night.—The prosecutrix, who was present, said he was the man who took the purse from her.

In answer to the magistrate, one of the constables said she was recovering from the effects of drink. He also said he had been lying on the floor of an empty room all night.—The prosecutrix said it was the first time she had misbehaved. She denied having drink with the prisoners, and said she was surprised to hear the police say she was not sober. She was excited but not drunk.—Mr. Curtis remanded the prisoner in custody.

Stratford.

THE DOCTOR AND THE BABY.—Henry Disney, said to be a medical man, of Red-bourn, Hertfordshire, was summoned to show cause why he should not be adjudged the putative father of the illegitimate female child of Jessie Catley, a servant, now in a situation at a doctor's at North Woolwich. Mr. J. Willis, jun., appeared for the complainant, the defendant did not appear. Complainant said in 1888 he was in the service of a doctor at North Woolwich, and Henry Disney, the defendant, was at that time an assistant to her master. At about Christmas time he took liberties with her, and was intimate with her. Off and on for some time he was familiar with her, and on March 24th last she was delivered of a female child. She had paid £1 1s. to the doctor who attended to her, a nurse claimed 10s., and her sister, at whose house in Bromley she had been confined, claimed £1 for the use of rooms. Since her confinement she had been in communication with the defendant, who was now a surgeon in practice, she believed, at Redbourn, in Hertfordshire. On August 9th last she received the following letter from him:—

Dear Jessie.—I have not had time to write before, so send you my pen, to pull you along. I should like to know how much a month would keep you right—1s. or £1 a month I think I can manage, and will send it the first week every month, if that will suit you. I am getting settled, and would not be surprised if I was to get married some day. Don't say anything about it. Write as soon as you can.—Yours, H. Disney.

She had also received the following, with an enclosure:—Dear Jessie, I enclose 1s., and will send some more soon.—Yours, H. D. She had seen the defendant write, and was perfectly positive that the two letters (both written in blue ink) were in the defendant's handwriting. Since her confinement she had returned to the situation she had with the doctor at North Woolwich.—On this evidence the bench made an order on the defendant to pay 5s. a week towards the support of the child till it attained the age of 16, and directed the payment of £3 12s. costs.

West Ham.

A HUMOUROUS PRISONER.—Julia Watts, aged 19, but looking much younger, and described as an unfortunate, of Spitalfields, evidently thought it good fun to be brought up charged with being drunk and incapable of Forest Gate. She had been on bail, and when her name was called out by Warrant-officer Winter she ran to the dock and mounted the steps with a bound, the graceful movement of which was spoilt in effect by her stumbling. She laughed at the mishap, and having nodded to the magistrate, she surveyed the court with a complacent smile.—A constable said he found her at 10 o'clock in the Woodford-road, Forest Gate, drunk and quite helpless, surrounded by a crowd. He took her to the station on an ambulance.—Inspector Attewell said the prisoner was so insensibly drunk that he deemed it advisable to send for the divisional surgeon, and there was a fee of 7s. 6d. to pay. The following conversation then took place:—Mr. Curtis (to prisoner): What have you to say to this?—Prisoner: Oh, I have nothing to say about it.—Mr. Curtis: What were you doing at Woodford-road?—Prisoner: Why, I came down, accidental-like.—Mr. Curtis: Yes, but what brought you here?—Prisoner: My legs brought me here, of course?—Mr. Curtis: A very truthful remark. The constable says he found you drunk—insensibly drunk. Do you deny that?—Prisoner: No, I don't deny that.

Mr. Curtis: Well, you must pay 5s. and costs, or go to goal for ten days.—Mr. Fowler (the clerk) said the costs were 12s. 6d., and the prisoner, jumping from the dock, blithely made her way to the gaoler's room.

Croydon.

THE PAUPER AND THE PEASCHES.—William Henry Rosier, a pauper inmate of the Croydon Workhouse, was charged with stealing from a tree in the grounds of the infirmary a quantity of peaches, value 2s., the property of the guardians.—The prisoner admitted stealing one, but Collard, a male nurse at the infirmary, said he watched the prisoner steal a lot of fruit, though only one peach was found in his pocket, and accused said he was only noticed about half a dozen peaches on the tree nearly ripe. On Friday evening he went round to see how they were getting on, and found that the tree had been stripped. It was true that on Thursday (the visiting day) there were a large number of people in the grounds. The prisoner's character was not a good one; he was in the habit of pilfering when he got the chance.—The bench ordered the prisoner to be detained at the police station until six o'clock, then to be discharged.

Lambeth.

A TRAMP'S "LEGAL RIGHTS."—John M'Quinn, who was brought up for refractory conduct in the Whitechapel casual ward, claimed what he called his "legal rights." He objected to his pipe and tobacco being taken from him while in the ward, and argued that the officials had no such statutory powers. The officials insisted that they had, and finding that argument had no effect upon them he had taken more violent means of enforcing his rights. This resulted in his being placed in the dock; and he now argued the matter with the magistrate.—Mr. Dickinson, however, was equally hard to convince, and the discussion on the legal aspect of the question was summarily closed by the prisoner being sent to goal for seven days.—Mr. Haden Corser: Certainly not.

Westminster.

LAZY CASUALS.—Michael Donovan, 22, and John Humphries, 19, able-bodied casuals, were charged before Mr. Shell with neglecting to perform their allotted task of work whilst casual inmates of the Wallis Yard Workhouse of the St. George's.

had done with a revolver. She replied she did not know, and he kicked her violently on the thigh, causing her considerable pain. On the previous day he had threatened to kill her.—In cross-examination, the prosecutrix admitted that she, acting under the advice of a solicitor, had taken the revolver out of the drawer.—The jury, failing to agree, were discharged, and the trial was postponed till the next session.

ASSAULT ON A WIFE.—William Collins was indicted for wounding his wife, Annie.—On bank holiday the prosecutrix was drinking with some women in the Red Lion public-house, Duke-street, Marylebone, when the prisoner, who had found his four children neglected and running about the streets, told her to go home and mind them. She refused, and he struck her three times with his fist. She then threw some beer over him and kicked him, upon which he ran at her with a clasp knife and inflicted a wound on her neck.

—For the defence, Mr. Purcell urged that besides the provocation the prisoner received it was quite possible he, forgetting he had a knife in his hand, struck the blow.—He was found guilty, and Mr. Warry, acting on the recommendation to mercy by the jury, sentenced him to five weeks' imprisonment, to date from Monday.—The wife begged to be allowed to see her husband, but the dock warden said there was no accommodation for visiting prisoners.—Mr. Warry: Surely in this large building there must be some place where the prisoner can see his wife. Let two warders take him somewhere where she can see him.

LEARNING HER EVIDENCE.—James Spurgeon, described as a factory man, was indicted for assaulting a girl 9 years of age.—The prosecutrix gave her evidence very readily, and in cross-examination by Mr. Gill, she said she knew her statement of heart.—Mr. Gill: Who taught it you?—Prosecutrix, in reply, said that her statement had been read over to her five times by an officer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.—Without hearing any further evidence, a verdict of not guilty was returned.

INQUESTS.

STRANGE DEATH OF A YOUNG WOMAN.—Mr. W. E. Baxter held an inquest at Bromley respecting the death of Mary Annie Louisa Webb, 21, a single woman, lately of 1, Cape Cottages, Canning Town.—Rachel Martin, landlady of the house, said that on Tuesday, August 12th, the deceased took a furnished room, paying the rent in advance. She went out the next day to look, it was supposed, for a situation. Witness did not see her again till the 17th, when she returned either very ill or the worse for drink. On being questioned, she said she had been to North Woolwich to see some friends, and that some gentleman had enticed her into his private apartments and behaved improperly to her. She afterwards became ill and was assisted to bed. She said the pain in her head was terrible. During the night she got worse, and next day witness sent for a doctor, who said it was only laziness, and that she would be all right if she would get up. On Tuesday, seeing that the deceased still continued in a half-unconscious state, witness got a cab and took her to the Sick Asylum, where the doctor said she was dying. She died the same day. She had nothing about her by which she could be identified.—The evidence of the hospital surgeon went to show that the cause of death was kidney disease of old standing. There were no marks of violence, and the appearance of the organs led to the conclusion that the deceased had been intemperate and had not led a modest life.

—The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

FATAL EXPLOSION AT THE THAMES IRON WORKS.—Mr. Baxter held an inquest at Poplar concerning the death of James Hadley, aged 38, a puddler, in the employ of the Thames Iron Company, Millwall, late of Horning-road, Plaistow.—John Hadley, a brother of the deceased, deposed that on the 22nd, about dinner time, the latter called attention to the fact that the slag was running off. They went to the furnace, and an explosion occurred and the deceased was thrown violently backward. He could only account for the explosion by the fact that the vent-hole in the ashpit was blocked up.

Mr. Thomas Mansell, foreman of the works, deposed to hearing the explosion and seeing the deceased removed to the hospital. He could not say where the explosion took place, but the slag ought not to have been allowed to run off, and this would be the fault of the last witness.

—If the vent-hole was blocked up

PECKHAM SHOOTING CASE.

Inquest at Peckham. Mr. S. H. F. Guy's Hospital, on Thursday, Mr. S. H. F. Peckham, the coroner for Southwark, held an inquest concerning the death of Robert Lomas, aged 64, who was shot in the Swan public-house, Peckham Park-road, by Henry Newman, the landlord's son, who had been charged with the offence at Lambeth Police Court, and remanded on bail. The affair happened on Saturday, August 9th, the deceased from his injuries on Saturday evening died. Mr. Armstrong now appears for Newman, and Inspector Lee for the police. The deceased was identified by Sarah Winn as her husband, who, she said, was a wire-worker, had been in prison for fourteen days, and was only released on the morning before he was shot. Joseph Gowell, of Down-street, Peckham, a labourer, deposed that on the evening of Saturday, August 9th, he was in the Swan, Peckham Park-road, when Henry Newman, the landlord's son, showed him a six-chambered revolver. At that moment the deceased entered the house and called for some refreshment. Newman told him he had had enough, and that he had better go home to bed, whereupon he fell up again. The deceased had lost eight children in infancy. On one of them there had been an inquest, and death was returned as from natural causes. Dr. Griffin said that in the present case the deceased had been in some way deprived of fresh air, thus causing it to be asphyxiated. The coroner said he had inquired into 150 to 200 similar inquiries every year. The most frequent were those of the child sleeping, as in the present case, on the mother's arm. The next number were those of mothers lying on their children. The lesser number happened when the arm was taken away and the child was left to lie face downwards. He strongly urged the "cot system" as in Germany. Out of the large number of cases of suffocation held before him one had never occurred while the infant was in bed in a cot. The jury returned a verdict of accidental suffocation.

THE WICKEDNESS OF THE MOSQUITO.

There is an amusing description in *Caw'ser's Journal* of the wiles of the mosquito as studied in India. Naturally intelligent, the mosquito acquires at an early age an extensive knowledge of the anatomy of man, displaying an intimacy with the spots where the cuticle is thinnest, which does credit to its ingenuity of tuition. When he finds his victim asleep he can exercise his trained instincts at leisure, and devotes his attention to the ears, neck, or knuckles. If the fore part of your wrist chance to be exposed he shows great partiality for that tender locality; but he is not exacting. Whilst you are awake he exhibits the unobtrusive side of his character, and prefers to pasture on your ankles. To do this he must, of course, penetrate your socks; and here again you discern how thoroughly he has been prepared by education for his career. He doesn't waste time over worsted; he has been taught that its thickness exceeds the length of his sharp proboscis, and he passes that fabric hasty by, to baffle upon ankles prodded only by this cotton or silk they offer no obstacle worth mentioning, and he knows it.

The *Toothsome Mosquito*. In taste, the mosquito is dainty and discriminating. He despises the black man and turns up his proboscis at a tough sun-dried old Anglo-Indian. The meal that rejoices his heart is that to be drawn from the veins of a tender young Briton fresh out from home, and for this victim he has an unerring eye. So marked is this epicurean preference, that if you sit up to a nice rosy-cheeked boy at the dinner-table, you will be utterly ignored by the mosquito, in his favour. They won't pay the slightest attention to you while the new arrival is there; but this does not make you jealous.

FEADING TIME. His appetite is gigantic, for he is all stomach. Watch him while he is feeding—on somebody else—and you marvel at his extraordinary elasticity and power of accommodation. Having waited until his victim's closed eyes betoken slumber, he ceases the song he has been singing thoughtfully to himself, and drops, softly as a floss of thistledown, upon the spot of his choice. He folds his gaunt wings, unfurls his proboscis, strokes the creases out of it, gives it a flourish or two, and plunges it into the epidermis. At first he stands on all eight legs, absorbed in his repast; but presently, the first sharp edge of hunger dulled, he begins to show signs of enjoyment. Raising his hindmost pair of legs, he works them stiffly up and down, as though to aid by this pump-handle action the process of suction; his body, no thicker than a silken thread when he alighted, begins to take decided shape, and the black and grey bands which adorn him show up distinctly. Steadily he continues to increase in bulk uniformly from end to end, a pink hue suffuses his whole being, and he seems to blush all over with delight. By-and-by the hindmost legs cease pumping and resume their proper office; the distended body sinks down as though the slender limb could no longer support its weight. The mosquito has finished in other words, he is as full as he can hold. He rolls up his proboscis, and the imaginative spectator hears his microscopic sigh of repulsion; he feels his now portly form all over with his legs, just to make sure that he can't hold any more, spreads his wings, and sails heavily away to digest his meal.

ALLEGED CASES OF CHOLERA. Dr. G. Danford Thomas held an adjourned inquest at the Hampstead Workhouse Infirmary, New End, on the body of Joseph Edmund Titchener, aged 51, a grocer, of Finsbury Park, who died suddenly on the 17th instant. Dr. Thomas Hunt was called in, and afterwards made a post mortem examination but not a complete one, which he considered unnecessary, as he thought it was clear that the deceased died from cholera. The coroner told the doctor that he ought to have made a complete examination, and added that there were none of the symptoms of cholera in the case. Dr. Hunt said he had not made a post mortem examination for twenty-eight years. The coroner then adjourned the case, and, at his request, Dr. William Boulting, of Heath-street, made a post mortem examination of the body. Dr. Boulting now gave evidence, and said that he found all the internal organs healthy, with the exception of the heart. The stomach was full of undigested food. The heart was extensively diseased from fatty degeneration, and witness had no doubt whatever that he died from syncope, through sudden failure of the heart's action from fatty degeneration of that organ. There was no sign of any other disease in the body. The jury unanimously agreed with Dr. Boulting, and returned a verdict of death from natural causes, through syncope from heart disease. Mr. Wynne Baxter held an inquest at the Poplar Town Hall respecting the death of Alfred Andrews, aged 5 years, the son of a carman, residing at 27, Burges-street, Limehouse. Eliza Andrews, the mother, deposed that on Sunday morning, at half-past seven, the child was taken with diarrhoea and vomiting. Later on one of the children gave deceased a pear, which he ate. Witness gave him some diarrhoea mixture, but as he got no better a doctor was sent for. Previous to that deceased became delirious. When the doctor arrived, he gave no hopes of deceased living. On Saturday the child had some sweets, but that, so far as witness knew, was the only thing the child had eaten that would upset him. Dr. Alexander Mitchell, of East India-road, stated that he was called to deceased about 7.30. His assistant went, and found the child in a condition of collapse. Witness was sent for again, and found the child dead. The child looked strong and healthy, and he could find no external evidence of the cause of death. Witness thought at one time that deceased was suffering from Asiatic cholera, but having examined some of the vomit, &c., he found evidence of bile which negatived that. He had come to the conclusion that death was due to choleric diarrhoea. The jury eventually returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

A royal surgeon has been caught in the Deo, measuring nine feet and weighing one hundredweight.

THOMAS HOODLESS.

MA. HAMMERSMITH BROADWAY, LONDON, W.

Special Advances. Cards and Letters. 15/- Principals. T. to be sent to the Post Office. 1/- Postage. 1/- Postage.

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HOW INFANT MORTALITY IS CAUSED.

Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest at the Paddington Coroner's Court on the body of Ethel Lomas, aged 2 months, the daughter of Joseph Lomas, a carpenter, living at 35, Hall-road, Edgware-road. The mother's evidence was to the effect that on the night of Sunday last she went to bed, having the child on her left arm. Early on Monday she awoke and found the infant looking black in the face. She tried to arouse it, but found it dead. It was elicited by the coroner that the mother had lost eight children in infancy. On one of them there had been an inquest, and death was returned as from natural causes. Dr. Griffin said that in the present case the deceased had been in some way deprived of fresh air, thus causing it to be asphyxiated. The coroner said he had inquired into 150 to 200 similar inquiries every year. The most frequent were those of the child sleeping, as in the present case, on the mother's arm. The next number were those of mothers lying on their children. 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THE PEOPLE MIXTURE.

An average of 1,000 pigs are eaten in London daily.

He is a pretty foolish man who reckons that the grass widow is green.

In England there is only one place of respite to about every 4,000 persons.

Bill Nye says, "Enjoy life while you can, for you will be dead a long while."

What's in a name? A good deal when it is placed at the south-east corner of a cheque.

Has any one ever noticed in playing cards that a good deal depends upon a good deal?

It is said that the corps of Royal Engineers will be strengthened by raising a new company, which will be the 41st.

Dr. Dillin, the interpreter in the Court of Sessions, New York city, can fluently speak many languages.

Germany boasts the healthiest army in Europe. Belgium is second best, and England comes in third.

The 16th Lancers, now at Shorncliffe, will embark at Portsmouth in her Majesty's ship *Sussex* on Tuesday for Lucknow.

The death has taken place of Dr. Samuel Crowley, B.N., ex-mayor of Belfast, and a leading Irish surgeon.

The death is announced in New York of Mr. Harry Walker, formerly British consul at Charlton.

The bakers in strike in county Cork have decided to take a plebiscite of the city to ascertain the views of the householders as to the men's demand for day work.

Poor churches were destroyed in a cyclone at Città di Castello (Perugia) on Monday. Immense damage was done to property. A house fell at Ficino, burying five people, and the commune of Città was devastated.

The Queen, with the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, arrived at Balmoral on Tuesday afternoon, the weather during the journey through Scotland being cold and wet.

Several men were charged at Lambeth Police Court with picking pockets at the Crystal Palace on Monday, on the occasion of the Foresters' fete, and were sentenced by Mr. Birrell to three months' imprisonment each.

Catherine Collius was found by a constable at the base of Chester walls in a helpless condition. She was conveyed to Chester Infirmary on a stretcher, when she stated that she had been flung over bodily by a man. Her escape from death is remarkable, as the walls at the spot are very high.

Whilst engaged in some excavations at the rear of her Maidstone Railway Station, a workman came upon the complete skeleton of a human being five feet from the surface. Under the skeleton was a weapon, supposed to be a dagger, and at the back of the skull there is a hole about two inches long.

An accident has occurred to the bellows of the St. Paul's Cathedral organ which will, it is feared, make it impossible to use the instrument for possibly a month. The organ is blown by a gas engine with a patent attachment.

Lord Aberdeen's house in Grosvenor-square has been bought by Mr. James Mason, of Eynsham Hall, and he is said to have given Lord Aberdeen the price he asked—namely, £70,000.

Sir Myles Fenton's boat in that during his seventeen years' management of the Metropolitan Railway £36,811,132 passengers were conveyed over the system without the loss of a single life.

Golf is still creeping on insidiously everywhere. Its latest development in the home counties seems to promise that in a year or two it will be the favourite sport of the "fine old country gentlemen."

The seven Australasian colonies imported in 1887 goods to a total value of £57,254,907, in 1889, the amount had risen to £69,420,315. In the same period the exports had risen from £50,532,862 to £61,718,433.

Bismarck bears his downfall well. He never appeared in more exuberant spirits. While at Kissingen he drives every morning at eleven to the minute with his doctor to the baths. After the "cure" is over he takes a long walk at a swinging pace.

According to *Yankee Fair*, a widow has threatened an action against an editor who remarked in the course of an obituary notice on her late husband that he had "gone to a happier home."

The next victim to "electrocution" in the States ought to be the man who recently poured kerosene over his wife's clothing and let her burn to death. A little agony would be no more than he deserved.

"What is love?" queried the editor of an American paper. He has since been dolored with answers mostly from the fair sex. One lady says: "Love is an itching of the heart which we cannot get at to scratch."

"What is beer?" is the pertinent question asked by a medical journal. It is a curious fact that out of the many thousands who partake of the cup that insinuates very few know precisely what they are drinking.

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Frank Snyder, of New York, is said to be the most marvellously lucky man at the races this season. Commencing with a few dollars he has already built up a pile of no less than \$20,000.

Girls, be very shy about marrying a man who can suppose a full-grown sneeze in a church. It indicates a bull-headed amount of will power which will sadly interfere with your wishes one fine day.

A number of representatives of Swiss and other continental banks have met at Berne, under the presidency of M. Hammer, to deliberate on the issue of a loan of 40,000,000 francs for the purchase of Swiss railways by the confederation.

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Sir George Grey, the veteran New Zealand statesman, has several times introduced a measure for throwing open the legal profession, and should it be carried into law he intends dealing with medical practitioners in a similar fashion. One of the clauses of the bill will provide that every prescription shall be written in English.

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At Rossendale Brewster Sessions at Haslingden the superintendent of police drew attention to the great increase of Sunday drinking. The convictions for drunkenness were 38 per cent. above last year, mainly caused by Sunday drinking. The police attributed the extraordinary increase to the enlarged facilities for travelling used by

blame to the boatmen. The jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned.

There were 2,457 births and 1,622 deaths in London last week.

Different forms of violence were responsible for fifty-four deaths in the metropolis last week.

There was not a single death from smallpox recorded last week in any of the twenty-eight great towns of England and Wales.

The French people are great on chicken-raising. A return gives the income derived from this industry as £27,000,000.

New York's oldest church is St. Paul's, the historic building in which George Washington worshipped after his inauguration.

It's a wise man that calculates the exact length of the tunnel before deciding to change his shirt between daylight and daylight.

Advertising didn't pay that young man whose father announced that he would "no longer be responsible for his son's debts."

Mr. Thomas E. Ellis's, M.P., testimonial fund, which has now been closed, amounts to close upon £1,100.

It is a gross breach of etiquette for a Chinaman to enter a room with his hat off. A Celestial gentleman always shows his respect by remaining covered.

Time goes with a snail's pace when one is young, but when old age comes along the Sun-dash by like the telegraph poles when you are on an express train.

Lottery letters are now to be excluded from the mails in America. Will love letters be held back on this account? Everybody knows that "marriage is a lottery."

"Oh, I hate those horrid 'tournaunes,'" was the remark of a damsel who halted from cultured Boston. Of course, a Boston girl would rather din than say "busst."

Germany has one doctor to every 3,000; Great Britain one to 1,250; and the United States one to 600.

This sign is said to be displayed in State-street, Chicago: "Columbus Laundry.—Come in and get your shirt washed and ironed while you wait."

Sponges, it is said, are now recognised by naturalists as belonging to the animal kingdom. Such things as human sponges are not entirely unknown.

Lord Magherameron left a personal estate, whose gross value has been sworn at £190,274 13s. 10d., and the net value at £159,718 11s. 7d.

One of our metropolitan coroners has announced upon the numerous deaths from overeating in London. There were nine such cases last week.

Full sleeves are still very much worn by the ladies; but our fashion dictators have refused to grant them an advance of a half-penny per box, and a farthing per box for apprentices.

The War Office has ordered a draft of fifty trained men of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment from the depot at Warwick to join the 1st Battalion on its arrival in London next week, to form the infantry garrison of the Tower.

Dr. Ross, of Wetheral, near Carlisle, was thrown out of his carriage, and sustained severe internal injuries. An operation was performed upon the unfortunate gentleman by Dr. Leishard, of Carlisle, Mr. Page, of Newcastle, and other doctors, but he died shortly afterwards.

Eight men from Llanaffyd were charged at Denbigh with assaulting Superintendent Vaughan, and one woman with assaulting Mr. Stevens, agent for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, while distressing for tithe. After hearing the evidence, the bench bound defendants over to keep the peace.

A Paris correspondent states that attempts are being made in the Charente district to check the advance into the vineyards of the much-dreaded phylloxera. This is being done by pouring into holes about the vines infected liquid sulphur or carbon, the fumes of which, it is said, kill these pests.

Nicholas, Archibishop of Odessa and Kherson, has just issued a brochure, denouncing in very strong terms the "Kreuzer Sonata" of Count Leon Tolstoi. His grace declares that the general tenor of this work is subversive of the sacred character of the orthodox marriage law.

The arrangements in connection with the visit of the Marquis of Hartington to York are completed. His lordship will speak at the evening meeting, which is to be preceded by a conference of the Yorkshire Liberal Unionist Federation in the exhibition building.

The latest crop reports from the Manitoba territories indicate that nearly three-quarters of the total crop are secured. The frost has done but little harm. The yield varies in different localities, but the average production will be high. The Canadian Pacific Railway has ordered 1,000 new freight cars to move the crop.

According to a communication made to the French Academy of Medicine by Dr. Verneuil, influenza has reappeared in Paris in an altered form. The epidemic seems to have assumed the form of sore throat. M. Gerard has also declared that he had observed two slight outbreaks of anæmia, which, he believes, are the sequel of influenza.

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many for the purpose of obtaining drink, and to their drinking in private clubs.

A landslide took place in the St. Gotthard tunnel on Tuesday. The traffic was not, however, seriously interrupted.

Mr. Phillips, who was arrested on suspicion of being the murderer of Mr. Meyer, in Copenhagen, has been discharged from custody.

The Bishop of Korea intends to establish a college in which he will train six young men who will learn the Chinese and Korean languages.

A large marble tablet has been unveiled in memory of the late Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria, near Gmunden, in Upper Styria at the entrance of a romantic ravine.

Prince George of Wales took part in a polo match at the riding grounds, Halifax, Nova Scotia, between the Army and Navy. The Army players won, defeating the prince's side by six goals to one.

Russian capitalists are founding a Russo-Japanese trading company, which is to establish factories at Tekio, Kioto, Osan, Nagasaki, Yokohama, Kumanoto, Bagod, and Kolo.

Among the latest acquisitions of the National Gallery are—"A Winter Scene," by Brougues; "A Village Scene," by Jan Steen; and "A Portrait of a Man," by Jan Maza.

The Engineer Volunteers encamped at Chatham were surprised late the other night by an attack from the Royal National Life-boat Institution, for gallantry in rescuing two gentlemen who were clinging to the keel of a capsized pleasure boat in Hartlepool Bay.

A movement has been made at the Belvoir Castle to have the Admiralty for an increase of pay, and will lay their grievances before Mr. Forwood, Parliamentary secretary to the Admiralty, on his forthcoming visit to the dockyards.

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A butcher named Henry Hoggart, of Cadogan-place, near Cardiff, has died under painful circumstances. A few days ago he sustained serious injuries through the bursting of a gun, when in the act of shooting a dog which was sheep worrying. Mortification rendered necessary the amputation of his right arm, and he succumbed soon after the operation.

At Knocky, near Ballymena, Bella Anderson, housemaid in the service of Mr. D. Russell, was missed on Tuesday morning, and a search was made for her in her bedroom, to the effect that by the time her mother received it she would be no more. The next evening her dead body was found lying face downward in about three feet of water, at a crossingford.

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TURF, FIELD, AND RIVER.

By LARRY LYNX.

Almost every variety of the eccentric British climate was exemplified on the Knave's evening when the York August meeting opened on Tuesday last. Sometimes the sun shone, at other times it rained or haled, and for the last part of the afternoon there was thunder and lightning. It cannot be said that sport on the first day was of a particularly interesting character, as fields were small and quality was conspicuous by its absence.

In the first race, the Badminton Plate, an odds on favourite, in the absence of Winifred and Avignon, was found in Scrooge, but although Mr. Singer's colt ran very well to the bend, he could do no better than finish a bad second to Ramelton Lassie, a daughter of Melton, whose recent previous performances did not warrant backers in anticipating her victory. After her poor show behind Martley at Brighton no encouragement existed for backing this mare, but in Robinson's hands she won from pillar to post. Of the dozen who sported silk in the Zetland Stakes most money was forthcoming for Ropert, but the six-year-old was beaten shortly after making the bend, where Bret Harts who seem to have improved since he won the Ryes Walter Handicap at Windsor, took up the running, and T. Lotes, easily stalling off the challenge of Chandley on the two-year-old Pasquin, landed Mr. Cleveland's son of Speculum a clever winner. The Yorkshire Oaks proved little more than an exercise gallop for Ponza, who had only Margarine and Alberta to beat. Dart One, having won the Bradgate Park Stakes easily, landing the odds bettor on him, the way was then paved for the chief event in the programme, the Prince of Wales's Plate of 1,000 guineas. Cleator, notwithstanding his defeat by Chesterfield at Stockton, and the fact that he had to put up a 10lb. penalty, had a host of friends, and started a good favourite. There was a lot of money in the market, however, for the Spigot Lodge-trained Lady of the Manor, but greatly to the disappointment of her friends, she cut up very badly, and Cleator, after a rattling set-to with Avignon, landed the popular blue and yellow hoop of Mr. Lowther by a neck. Mr. McGregor finished first in the Lonsdale Stakes, but was disqualified in favour of Eagleham; and with D'Orsay's walk over the first day's racing at York concluded.

There was an agreeable change in the weather on the Great Ebor day at York, and an appreciable augmentation in the attendance. I may parenthetically remark that most visitors to the stands and enclosure on the Knave's evening were very much pleased with the improvements that have been carried out there. If Surefoot can go at full pressure for a mile and a quarter at Doncaster he may gallop his opponents to a standstill, and we may be treated to the rare spectacle of a presumed non-stayer winning a race which has ever been runned as a severe test of a three-year-old's stamina by sheer speed.

The Kingsclere stable will probably beat record in the number of starters who represent that powerful establishment. I am warned that, notwithstanding the decline of Eight Away in the betting and the tendency of the general run of backers to support his stable companions, Blue Green and Salford, Surefoot's brother is the pick of the lot under John Porter's care. That the colt is the best Porter had under his charge in the spring is generally admitted, and as he is constantly galloping the St. Leger distance in company with the Derby winner and Blue Green, it may be assumed that Eight Away has lost that unsoundness which prevented him from fulfilling his engagements in the early summer. He will probably be ridden by T. Lotes, and will have all the advantages skillful horsemanship can lend him. Mr. Gretton, who owns Gonsalvo, remembering the bold bid his horse Apollo once made for victory in the St. Leger, will have a cut in with this horse, who is doing good work with the rest of the Kingsclere candidates, and can stay as well as gallop fast. Orwell, who will make running for Blue Green, is doing shorter work, and the cultivation of speed is evidently the desideratum aimed at in his case. Heame has done a lot of his work of late on the tan at Newmarket, and this has given rise to some apprehension amongst outsiders that some signs of his old trouble have shown themselves, but Hayhoe thoroughly understands Hermit's son, who, so far as I can learn, is as sound as ever he left his man as he liked in the last mile, and won by fully forty yards in the fastest time on record.

That the previous record was removed is not surprising. It was not a very brilliant one to beat; and, moreover, was made in a twenty miles race by G. A. Duxbury many years ago.

Still, seeing how far the former fastest was left behind, both Thomas and Morton should receive due credit for what they did; and that what they did was really good will be gleaned from the fact that, whereas Dunning took 1hr. 5min. 33sec. over his dozen miles, Morton got home on Wednesday in 1hr. 3min. 32sec., whilst Thomas's time was 1hr. 3min. 16.4sec.

Neither on the occasion of Dunning's performance nor that of Morton was the going by any means all that could be desired, but, in this respect, Dunning had decidedly the worst of the deal.

The thick and thin admirers of Oddfellows seem not at all dismayed by the failures of which Barcaline's son has been guilty this year, and still claim for him the possession of that stamina which is supposed to be the special prerogative of all St. Leger winners. I shall, however, decline to regard the chance of this beautifully bred colt in a favourable light, and shall not take him on my side in a lot to beat the field. Ryan will strip Alloway, and probably Ponza, as well as Martagon, but I scarcely think that he will lead in a Leger winner in one of this trio. Alloway sadly disappointed his admirers in a gallop with Blue Green, and great striding colt though he is, is the sort of a sire who has never yet bred a stayer, and I, for one, refuse to credit him with the ability of successfully covering the long tiring gallop at Doncaster, and by so doing prove himself an exception to the rule which has ever been associated with Springfield's progeny. The only worthy champion of the Northern stables will be Queen's Birthday. This colt has not been beaten this season, and the company he has defeated time after time has not been suggestive of the very highest class, there is no getting over the fact that he has won every one of his engagements since we saw him out at Lincoln with most consummate ease. Being by Hagioscope out of Matilda, he comes of a staying stock, and each of his races has been won in the style of a stayer, for whereas his opponents have always been tiring away to nothing, he has been resolutely running on at the finish. With regard to the two other Yorkshire-trained horses, both the property of Mr. C. Perkins—I allude to Hutton Conyers and Fenrother, both sons of Beauchene, and trained by L'Anson—their book form gives no hope of either of them placing the Sellinger to the credit of the county of many acres, and if a Yorkshire horse does win that horse will be Queen's Birthday, who won the Great Yorkshire Stakes on Thursday like a racehorse.

The Leger field will be augmented by Star, who will carry Prince Soltykoff's pretty pink and black colours and Westminster, but neither of these colts has the slightest pretension to classic honours, and they would be better in their stables than getting in the way of the other starters. Certainly, of the two, Westminister has a little form to recommend him, but any hopes that his admirers may entertain must be of the most forlorn description. The time is not ripe yet to finally sum up the chances of the St. Leger horses, and this task may well stand over for another week. Supposing all four horses see the post fit and well, I should take Heame, Surefoot, Right Away, and Queen's Birthday to beat the field. At the time of writing I have most fancy for the winning chances of Heame and Surefoot. Place honours I shall deal with on a later occasion.

The stoppage in Memoir's St. Leger preparation has lasted longer than was generally anticipated when I last addressed the readers of this column. The Duke of Portland's daughter of St. Simon is one of those who do not require a severe preparation, but it must be recollected that the St. Leger is run over a longer distance of ground than any of the other classic races, and her enforced absence from George Dawson's string at exercise cannot but have a prejudicial effect on her chance for the big race on Doncaster's Town Moor. I very much fear that, like his illustrious sister, Signorina, Memoir is a difficult animal to train. Still, so far George Dawson has proved himself a worthy chip of the old block, and there need be no apprehension but that he will send

the post to him.

Rain has once more played sad havoc with cricket this week. The third of the repro-

sentative matches between England and Australia had to be abandoned in consequence of the heavy storms which swamped the wicket at Old Trafford, Manchester, and rendered it thoroughly unplayable. Into the merits of the team chosen to represent England, supposing the match had come off, I do not propose to enter. You cannot please everybody, and as a team can only consist of eleven men, everybody's fancy player cannot be included in it. The team as selected was a very good one, and I have no doubt would have rendered a very excellent account of itself if it had been brought into action. As it was not called upon to show its capacity in the field, there is no more to be said about the matter.

Surefoot continues to make remarkable progress at Lambourne, and his gallops so far have generally reached a limit of two miles. There will be no coddling of Wisdom on this time, as there was at Epsom, for Jousiffe seems to have arrived at the conclusion that the more Surefoot is indulged in masterly inactivity the more he wants his own way when he is pulled out in public. I have always thought that if Surefoot, instead of being saddled at Sherwood's stables for the Epsom Derby, had been allowed to take his chance with the other horses in the parade and canter, he would have rendered a better account of himself, more especially if he had been allowed to make his own running.

In the Two Thousand Guineas we saw Surefoot fairly spreadeagle his field, simply because he was allowed to have his own way and come away directly the flag fell. At Epsom, Liddiard, acting under orders, never allowed him to have his head till rounding Tattenham Corner. The consequence was that the horse chafed and fidgeted himself into a perfect fury because he was not allowed to go fast enough to keep himself warm, and when he was asked to make an effort like Mrs. Dombey, he refused to do so. At Leicester, the scene was changed. True, it was only a mile race at Oakley, but directly the flag dropped Surefoot rushed to the front, and in the end fairly ran his opponents off their legs. It remains to be seen whether these tactics will prove successful over three-quarters of a mile more than he galloped at Leicester. The work he is doing at Seven Barrows is more like a Leger preparation than horses were accustomed to undergo being mainly due to the bowling of Mr. Spofforth in the second innings of Norfolk's Anglo-Australian, aided by the state of the wicket, taking no fewer than seven wickets for 26 runs. Leicestershire, at Leyton, beat Essex by 60 runs.

A determined glove fight was contested in the Antient Concert-rooms, Dublin, on Wednesday night, between the ex-amateur, Alfred Bowman, of England, and Peter Maher of Dublin, Irish champion. The pair fought under Queen'sberry rules at catch weight, and were indulged in a ducal referee in the person of the Duke of Manchester, who seems to be an authority on "dukes" in theiristic sense. It was a case of hard knocks throughout. Maher's strength proving more than a match for Bowman's science. The latter, after being repeatedly knocked down, received his quietus in the shape of a right-hander on the jaw in the ninth round, which decided the fight in Maher's favour.

As though with a view of showing that the machine and man, rather than any particular path, is the most important factor in the record breaking way, some of our crack cyclists have successfully assaulted some of the previous bests which had been brought about at Paddington—on the racing track at Bristol.

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The Leger field will be augmented by Star, who will carry Prince Soltykoff's pretty pink and black colours and Westminster, but neither of these colts has the slightest pretension to classic honours, and they would be better in their stables than getting in the way of the other starters. Certainly, of the two, Westminister has a little form to recommend him, but any hopes that his admirers may entertain must be of the most forlorn description. The time is not ripe yet to finally sum up the chances of the St. Leger horses, and this task may well stand over for another week. Supposing all four horses see the post fit and well, I should take Heame, Surefoot, Right Away, and Queen's Birthday to beat the field. At the time of writing I have most fancy for the winning chances of Heame and Surefoot. Place honours I shall deal with on a later occasion.

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the post to him.

Rain has once more played sad havoc with cricket this week. The third of the repro-

sentative matches between England and Australia had to be abandoned in consequence of the heavy storms which swamped the wicket at Old Trafford, Manchester, and rendered it thoroughly unplayable. Into the merits of the team chosen to represent England, supposing the match had come off, I do not propose to enter. You cannot please everybody, and as a team can only consist of eleven men, everybody's fancy player cannot be included in it. The team as selected was a very good one, and I have no doubt would have rendered a very excellent account of itself if it had been brought into action. As it was not called upon to show its capacity in the field, there is no more to be said about the matter.

Surefoot continues to make remarkable progress at Lambourne, and his gallops so far have generally reached a limit of two miles. There will be no coddling of Wisdom on this time, as there was at Epsom, for Jousiffe seems to have arrived at the conclusion that the more Surefoot is indulged in masterly inactivity the more he wants his own way when he is pulled out in public. I have always thought that if Surefoot, instead of being saddled at Sherwood's stables for the Epsom Derby, had been allowed to take his chance with the other horses in the parade and canter, he would have rendered a better account of himself, more especially if he had been allowed to make his own running.

In the Two Thousand Guineas we saw Surefoot fairly spreadeagle his field, simply because he was allowed to have his own way and come away directly the flag fell. At Epsom, Liddiard, acting under orders, never allowed him to have his head till rounding Tattenham Corner. The consequence was that the horse chafed and fidgeted himself into a perfect fury because he was not allowed to go fast enough to keep himself warm, and when he was asked to make an effort like Mrs. Dombey, he refused to do so. At Leicester, the scene was changed. True, it was only a mile race at Oakley, but directly the flag dropped Surefoot rushed to the front, and in the end fairly ran his opponents off their legs. It remains to be seen whether these tactics will prove successful over three-quarters of a mile more than he galloped at Leicester. The work he is doing at Seven Barrows is more like a Leger preparation than horses were accustomed to undergo being mainly due to the bowling of Mr. Spofforth in the second innings of Norfolk's Anglo-Australian, aided by the state of the wicket, taking no fewer than seven wickets for 26 runs. Leicestershire, at Leyton, beat Essex by 60 runs.

A determined glove fight was contested in the Antient Concert-rooms, Dublin, on Wednesday night, between the ex-amateur, Alfred Bowman, of England, and Peter Maher of Dublin, Irish champion. The pair fought under Queen'sberry rules at catch weight, and were indulged in a ducal referee in the person of the Duke of Manchester, who seems to be an authority on "dukes" in theiristic sense. It was a case of hard knocks throughout. Maher's strength proving more than a match for Bowman's science. The latter, after being repeatedly knocked down, received his quietus in the shape of a right-hander on the jaw in the ninth round, which decided the fight in Maher's favour.

As though with a view of showing that the machine and man, rather than any particular path, is the most important factor in the record breaking way, some of our crack cyclists have successfully assaulted some of the previous bests which had been brought about at Paddington—on the racing track at Bristol.

There was an agreeable change in the weather on the Great Ebor day at York, and an appreciable augmentation in the attendance. I may parenthetically remark that most visitors to the stands and enclosure on the Knave's evening were very much pleased with the improvements that have been carried out there. If Surefoot can go at full pressure for a mile and a quarter at Doncaster he may gallop his opponents to a standstill, and we may be treated to the rare spectacle of a presumed non-stayer winning a race which has ever been runned as a severe test of a three-year-old's stamina by sheer speed.

The Kingsclere stable will probably beat record in the number of starters who represent that powerful establishment. I am warned that, notwithstanding the decline of Eight Away in the betting and the tendency of the general run of backers to support his stable companions, Blue Green and Salford, Surefoot's brother is the pick of the lot under John Porter's care. That the colt is the best Porter had under his charge in the spring is generally admitted, and as he is constantly galloping the St. Leger distance in company with the Derby winner and Blue Green, it may be assumed that Eight Away has lost that unsoundness which prevented him from fulfilling his engagements in the early summer. He will probably be ridden by T. Lotes, and will have all the advantages skillful horsemanship can lend him. Mr. Gretton, who owns Gonsalvo, remembering the bold bid his horse Apollo once made for victory in the St. Leger, will have a cut in with this horse, who is doing good work with the rest of the Kingsclere candidates, and can stay as well as gallop fast. Orwell, who will make running for Blue Green, is doing shorter work, and the cultivation of speed is evidently the desideratum aimed at in his case. Heame has done a lot of his work of late on the tan at Newmarket, and this has given rise to some apprehension amongst outsiders that some signs of his old trouble have shown themselves, but Hayhoe thoroughly understands Hermit's son, who, so far as I can learn, is as sound as ever he left his man as he liked in the last mile, and won by fully forty yards in the fastest time on record.

That the previous record was removed is not surprising. It was not a very brilliant one to beat; and, moreover, was made in a twenty miles race by G. A. Duxbury many years ago. Still, seeing how far the former fastest was left behind, both Thomas and Morton should receive due credit for what they did; and that what they did was really good will be gleaned from the fact that, whereas Dunning took 1hr. 5min. 33sec. over his dozen miles, Morton got home on Wednesday in 1hr. 3min. 32sec., whilst Thomas's time was 1hr. 3min. 16.4sec.

Neither on the occasion of Dunning's performance nor that of Morton was the going by any means all that could be desired, but, in this respect, Dunning had decidedly the worst of the deal.

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VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.

[Communications intended for this column should be delivered at the office not later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday.]

The attendance at the annual camp of the Volunteer Engineers shows a falling off in numbers as compared with previous years, a circumstance which, however, does not arise from any dislike on the part of the men to the camp itself. The claim is that this year the Volunteer services have of late been very heavy, and in addition to this a large number of commanding officers have taken their battalions to local camps. One of the consequences is that, as the men have only a limited amount of time at their disposal, they are compelled to shorten the time of their engagements. It is questionable, also, if the recent change, each corps bringing its own non-commissioned instructor with it, is an improvement on the former system of employing the non-coms. of the School of Engineering for this duty. The men are, however, more interested in the professional non-coms., but, on the other hand, it has the disadvantage of depriving the men of the advantage of being instructed by those whose very occupation compels them to become acquainted with the latest improvements in modern engineering.

The Shoeburyness fortnight turned out to be a pleasanter one than was anticipated. At first the men had to fire under atmospheric difficulties, but was there ever a fortnight passed at Shoeburyness when it was otherwise? The practical training of the force thought it would be, and was it far to show that this was one peculiarly adapted to Volunteers. Practice with the 64-pounder was fairly good, but it became very questionable whether Volunteers should practise it to the extent now, as the gun is not in the future to form part of either a field or garrison gunner, and the 64-pounder is not likely to play a very prominent part for the purpose of coast defence.

The council of the Middlesex Rifle Association have appointed a Friday night of each month for the annual competition for the Grosvenor Cup and Champion Badge. The contest is open to Volunteers of the City of London, the county of Middlesex, and the Tower Hamlets, and to Volunteers resident in the northern parts of the county of London. Considerable interest is always excited in this contest, which will, as usual, take place at Park Lane, Tottenham.

It appears that during their short stay in camp at Shorncliffe the H.A. Company's battery gave great satisfaction to the commanding officer of Royal Artillery, the compliment being paid that they were the best battery during the four days they were there. A great many members of the company are, however, not quite satisfied with the condition of this hybrid battalion. For several years the strength of the regiment has been kept up. After a long and strenuous campaign, it had arrived at the conclusion that, as the subscriptions and entrance fees to many crack corps is but nominal, future members joining should only be required to pay £10 10s. for uniform and an annual subscription of £2 2s. The report of the committee will be discussed at the annual general court.

At the competition of the London Rifle Brigade, for the gold and silver badges and spoon competition, Corporal Ellington won the gold badge and spoon, and Corporal Petty the silver spoon. The other spoons made were not at all up to the average. Last Friday, at the South London Club, the highest score made was 96.

I notice preparations have already commenced in connection with the forthcoming annual competition in Birmingham. Two camps have been pitched on Crookham Common; one by the Ordnance Stores D-partment, and the other by the Army Service Corps. As the men and horses of the two brigades will have to be supplied entirely on the Army Service Corps for the duration of the camp, they will be compelled to be quartered in this camp before they can take the field. Most of them will be drawn from Aldershot, except in the case of contractors, when fodder will be furnished by farmers in the neighbourhood or sent direct by rail.

A few interesting experiments are still taking place with smokeless powder. During the manoeuvres at Montichiari, some remarkable results were obtained. Batteries of artillery, we are told, kept up a fire for half an hour without their being discovered, and the shells made by the gunners also gave a most promising result. It would be interesting to know what the effect would have been if the powder had been noiseless as well as smokeless.

One would like to know on what terms the Franco-Spanish are in future to be let to metropolitan cities. The R.A. has been asked to give their assent to this, but the public has not had a very generous response. Money, however, is to be obtained by letting the ranges, and if the rent charge is proportionately lower, that is to say, so low that the balance in extra railway fare can be made up by the rent, then what they will do not do a good and profitable business. If report be true, they have let the Regulars in without any extra payment, on the ground they assisted in the construction of the works. Now, if the association has written out a cheque for the extra fourpence a day the audience will be asked to pay it. It is a possible claim to the use of the ranges. But if, on the other hand, such sum has not been paid, then, of course, Sir Evelyn Wood is quite correct in claiming his right of user over the land. With that point once established, the precedent may, however, become formidable, and one difficult to break down.

So long as the association is a purely voluntary one, it need not be of the expense of the public, and shooting throughout the country, any interference on the part of the State, or military authorities ought to be discouraged, but if one admits that its lands are open to the use of troops of the Line, then the association will be compelled to give up its independence or let a rent-chamber. The War Office, however, is no doubt to let the association get into difficulties, and then to step in and control the whole of the shooting arrangements of the volunteers.

I have just been reading an interesting article on the history of the experiments with the new magazine rifle. In consequence of the rapid twist of the rifling, the cartridges at present used are the cap-and-ball enveloped with lead. According to the authority I refer to, the principal objection to the rifle is respect to the covering of the cartridge, it being considered that it is not safe to fire it by reason of the nickel envelope adhering to the horn. At Enfield it is still maintained the breeching apparatus is too delicate to stand the strain of rapid fire by the hands of our ordinary short-service soldiers, and is admitted on the part of the War Office that it is for a very rapid twist, its life is not likely to be so long as that of the Martini-Henry. The magazine adds about one pound in weight to the gun, but it is urged on behalf of that it has a 200 yards longer range than the Martini-Henry, and that it may be of considerable use in case of emergency, when the expenditure of ammunition more quickly than would ordinarily obtain is necessary.

For the Queen's (Shoeburyness) prize has, after all, been taken by a City corps, and the Queen's, 1st City of London, A.V. have not taken many honours of late, and therefore it is all the more gratifying to know that there is a decided improvement for the better in the shooting of this brigade. Probably, if their colonel had been allowed to fire from the platform, his men might have carried off all the prizes of the meeting; but even as the matter now stands their success at the N.A.A.'s meeting is enough to awake the spirit of a Wagg Preacher.

In the 24th inst. there was some good work done by the members of the North London Club at Park, when Private Taylor, of the Queen's, made 25 points in B series, and Private T. W. E. Lang, 25. The 1st City of London, A.V. have not taken many honours of late, and therefore it is all the more gratifying to know that there is a decided improvement for the better in the shooting of this brigade. Probably, if their colonel had been allowed to fire from the platform, his men might have carried off all the prizes of the meeting; but even as the matter now stands their success at the N.A.A.'s meeting is enough to awake the spirit of a Wagg Preacher.

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As reported the Government intend to have

a 4,000 yards range for practice with the new rifle. It is to run from Catterham to Sandgate. No doubt it will become necessary to build a long range in this direction, but why have it so far from London when there is any quantity of Crown land to be obtained near Aldershot, to which place men can travel nearly as quickly as they can to the head of the Catterham Valley. Happy thought! The Treasury allowed the W. O. so much money that they can afford to purchase irrespective of cost.

ELMAZ.

VOLUNTEER REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

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GREAT FIRES IN LONDON.

The energies of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were taxed to an extraordinary extent on Friday morning, for, in addition to two very serious fires in the City and Haggerston, they had to cope with one of those enormous conflagrations which break out periodically in the vast timber or coal stores on the water-side. At an early hour a vast coal store on the banks of the Thames burst into flames, and half the force of the brigade, concentrated rapidly from all parts of the metropolis, was engaged for hours at the work of extinction. The scene of the fire was the Old Sun Wharf, Narrow-street, Ratcliff, which was used by several firms for the storage of coals. Soon after daylight great volumes of smoke were seen rising from the wharf, and the alarm was quickly raised. In the course of a few minutes a sudden burst of flames came from all parts of a great four-storeyed building, and it was apparent that the flames had obtained a very strong hold. The nearest fire alarms were rung, and a man ran into the fire station in Glamis-road, Chadwell, and called the firemen. The steamer was at once turned out, and the news telephoned to the district centre at Commercial-road East. The officers there ordered the steamers from Whitechapel, Hackney, Bethnal Green, Mile End, Bow, Poplar, the Isle of Dogs, Bishopsgate, Shoreditch, and Stoke Newington. Even as these engines turned out of their stations the light of the fire could be plainly seen, and when the earliest contingents arrived at the fire the scene was one of the greatest excitement. For forty yards one way and twenty another, an enormous furnace was blazing with terrific heat, and thousands of tons of coal were becoming more and more involved in the flames every minute. The four-storeyed building, 120ft. by 60ft. in dimensions, was burning from end to end, and the entire wharf was on fire. From the headquarters at Southwark the steamers and hose van with 1,000 feet of hose were despatched, and the coal van was kept running between the station and the fire to supply the steamers with coal. The fire was attacked from both land and water, and with a force which was greater than that which was employed at Whiteley's great fire or even at the Wood-street fire. Seventeen steamers were pumping water on to the flames on land, and over a hundred firemen were engaged at the scene in handling the deliveries, and in trying to prevent the conflagration spreading to adjoining premises. By seven o'clock the fire was practically surrounded, and it then only became a matter of simple pumping on the flames until they were subdued or had burned themselves out. When the floors and roof fell in the firemen had some very narrow escapes, but fortunately none of them were seriously injured. The immediate result of the fall was to make the fire burn still more.

OUTBREAK IN THE CITY.

At half-past three o'clock on Friday morning the attention of police-constables on duty in the vicinity of Honey-lane Market, City, was called to a volume of smoke issuing from a large warehouse at No. 10, Honey-lane, and it was discovered that the premises were in flames. A "call" for a warehouse slightly speedily produced a large attendance of engine and men, and the firemen found that a very serious outbreak was raging on the third floor, on the part of the premises occupied by Mr. A. E. McGeary, an agent. The rest of the third floor was occupied by Messrs. Clements and Palmer, agents, while the second floor was tenanted by Mr. L. S. Bell, agent, and by Mr. H. Hall, agent; the first floor was occupied by George Perrin and Co., agents and importers; and the ground floor by Mr. J. C. Scudamore. In some way the landing and staircase had caught fire at the top of the warehouse, and the fire was just becoming involved, when the firemen rushed up the staircase with the hose and got a hydrant to work. The rapidity with which the alarm was raised and responded to probably saved the entire premises from destruction. As it was, very considerable damage was done.

A PIANO FACTORY DESTROYED.

The same morning a fire occurred at 17, Angrave-street, Queen's-road, Haggerston, upon the property of Messrs. F. and C. Cons, piano-forte manufacturers. The firemen at the Angrave-road, Hackney, Station were called up by the fire alarm, and found that a large building of two floors, about 45ft. by 20ft. in dimensions, and used as workshops, was well alight. Further aid was called up, and hydrant after hydrant was set to work, but though the firemen were successful in saving adjacent property, they could not prevent Messrs. Cons' workshops being totally destroyed. The cause of the fire is unknown. The contents were insured in the Phoenix.

FIRES IN LAMBETH.

A destructive fire was discovered at ten minutes past three on Saturday morning at 186, South Lambeth-road, upon the premises of Mr. Sydney James Mitchell, a wholesale and retail furniture dealer. The extensive premises were very closely stocked with furniture, and the flames, which burst out in the front shop from an unknown cause, made very rapid progress. The place was well alight when the police raised the alarm, and by the time the news had been communicated to the firemen at Vauxhall station, and then to the district centre at Kennington-lane, had become very fierce, the building being in flames from top to bottom. Fortunately the inmates had been aroused at an early stage, and were enabled to effect a hurried escape. The adjacent wine and beer stores of Mr. G. Owen were in great danger for a time, and when the flames burst through the roof and lit up the surrounding neighbourhood the fire was thought to be serious that from Brixton, Clapham, Peckham, and Waterloo-road was called up. The fire was overcome by daybreak, when Mr. Mitchell's premises had been entirely destroyed, while the building and contents at No. 186 had been damaged by smoke and water. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained.

OUTBREAK AT BERMONDSEY.

Early on Saturday morning the firemen were busily engaged at a fire which broke out at Russell-place, Tanner-street, Bermondsey, upon the premises of Messrs. F. Lloyd and Co., charcoal manufacturers. The first intimation of the outbreak was received by the ringing of the Star-corner fire alarm. The premises were used as a manufactory, and the flames broke out on the ground floor, and spread rapidly until it involved the first and second floors. Engines were despatched to the scene from the Old Kent-road, Tooley-street, Rotherhithe, Camberwell, and Southwark, and by means of great promptitude the firemen succeeded in subduing the flames before the building had been entirely destroyed. The three floors which had caught fire were very seriously damaged by fire, heat, and water, and the rest of the manufactory suffered by smoke and water. The cause of the fire is unknown.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AT A LAUNCH.

LOSS OF FIFTY LIVES.

A tremendous storm has visited St. Petersburg. Streets were flooded to the depth of several feet, and from the fortress signal guns were fired as a warning to the inhabitants. The steam yacht Iolanthe arrived at Dover on Friday with her bows damaged, having run into a pier. The Factory Commission at Calcutta will consist principally of native gentlemen, and will direct their attention specially to the working hours, the holidays, and the conditions of the employment of women and children. They will report before the beginning of the legislative session.

ALARMING RAILWAY COLLISION.

THIRTY PASSENGERS INJURED.

Thirty persons were injured in a railway collision on Thursday morning on the North British Railway, at Milngavie Junction. The train was travelling on a single line from Milngavie, a manufacturing village seven miles north-west of Glasgow. All went well till the junction was reached, when there was a sudden and an awful bump. Windows were broken, and the travellers were knocked against one another. The first-class passengers suffered most. The injured were helped on to the bank, and having had their heads or limbs bathed, were removed to their homes, in most cases, not far distant. Those who were able to walk proceeded to the Helensburgh line, where they got into one of the coast train expresses, and went on to Glasgow. Word was sent to Milngavie, Bearsden, and Maryhill for medical aid. No one was killed, though most of the passengers suffered from the shock. Nearly all had jumps on their brows. One gentleman had his nose cut open, while the guard of the passenger train is said to have had his jaw broken.

STATEMENTS BY PASSENGERS.

Mr. James Galbraith, jun., said that when the collision occurred he thought that his friend opposite had given him a blow. "Never for a moment," he added, "did the thought flash through my mind that an accident had occurred. A gentleman opened the door and alighted, and I did the same, but fell upon the metals at the side of the line. I had lost my hat. To my amazement everybody was jumping out of the carriage, some falling on their hands and knees. I saw that a collision had occurred. The two engines were close together. All the windows on the one side of the train appeared to be broken, and the greater number of the passengers had cut faces. I think to the broken glass. Many of the passengers had, like myself, jumps on their brows. My father, James Galbraith, a West Indian merchant, was very seriously injured, his head and mouth being badly cut." Mr. Russell, a passenger who had a very serious injury to his brow, made the following statement:—"I was in a first-class compartment in the centre of the train. I was sitting on the right hand side, facing the engine, and while reading my paper there was a fearful crash, and I dashed right into the gentleman opposite me. There was, before I left school, a matter of simple pumping on the flames until they were subdued or had burned themselves out. When the floors and roof fell in the firemen had some very narrow escapes, but fortunately none of them were seriously injured. The immediate result of the fall was to make the fire burn still more.

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SINGULAR CHARGE OF CRUELTY.

At the Worship-street Police Court on Friday, James Godfrey, living at Westmoreland-place, City-road, appeared to a summons charging him with having ill-treated George Godfrey, aged 7 years, in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering and injury to health. Mr. Morris said he prosecuted for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He did not wish to make any remarks on the charge, which was one of flogging a son, the sole question for the magistrate being whether the punishment was or was not excessive. He called William Lewis, an elderly man, who said that on the 7th of August he saw a boy, aged 7 years, in the street, and witness's lad had the boy in and changed his shirt because it was ragged, dirty, and had two patches of blood on it. The blood was on one shoulder and one hip. The boy, witness said, had been severely beaten. There were marks of a strap on his back, from the shoulder downwards to the hip. The skin was knocked off one shoulder and one elbow. Witness called in the police and handed him over to them. Asked why the shirt was changed, the witness said it was dirty, and he threw it into the road. P.C. 461 G said he saw the boy, and examined him at the station. The marks on the boy of bleeding were two patches about the size of a halfpenny. P.C. 410 G said that he went with the boy to the station, examined him, and found his shirt saturated with blood. Mr. Bedford, for the defence, cross-examined the constable as to his statement. The constable said that there were marks of a buckle on the boy's back, and the marks were those of a strap. He had not heard the other constable say that there were two marks about the size of a halfpenny. He (witness) thought the boy's shirt was "saturated." William Bell said he was an officer of the prosecuting society, and he had inquired into the case. He had seen defendant, who said he had given the boy the strap because he had thrown stones and broken a neighbour's window. He denied that he had given the boy a blow. "Don't shop there; they won't close at five o'clock" (Thursday is the early closing night in the West-end). He ordered the prisoner to go away, and he went a short distance, but returned, and at last he arrested the prisoner, who was a ringleader. Mr. Woolf, an Edgware-road tradesman, said a gang of unruly youths paraded in front of the shops in Edgware-road, between Queen-street and Nufford-place. The young men were distributing bills advising people not to shop of certain tradesmen who kept their shops open. The same thing occurred the previous night, between half-past six and seven o'clock. There were a number of young men about forty—giving bills away to people, and when any one attempted to go into a shop to make a purchase the young men caught hold of their arms, thrust a bill into their hand, and said, "Don't shop there; they won't close at five o'clock" (Thursday is the early closing night in the West-end). He ordered the prisoner to go away, and he went a short distance, but returned, and at last he arrested the prisoner, who was a ringleader. Mr. Woolf, an Edgware-road tradesman, said a gang of unruly youths paraded in front of the shops in Edgware-road, between Queen-street and Nufford-place. The young men were distributing bills advising people not to shop of certain tradesmen who kept their shops open. The same thing occurred the previous night, between half-past six and seven o'clock. 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